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EDITORIAL COMMENT

JUST when we thought the London 2012 sheen might finally have rubbed off British showjumping, the team out in Barcelona pulled off an almighty coup to stand runners-up at the Nations Cup final (there's an office debate over whether we can call them silver medallists as the medals weren't from the FEI, but from the sponsor Furusiyya). Anyway, whatever you call them, the team exceeded expectations.

The unassuming Joe Clee stepped up to the role of anchorman with aplomb, pulling off a high-pressure clear when it was most needed.

And this team result came without the high-flying Scott Brash — who wasn't called up with Hello Sanctos

This team result came without the high-flying Scott Brash'

following his majestic grand slam win in Calgary, where the horse had jumped his socks off.

Perhaps Cassionato's sub-par performance under Michael Whitaker was testament to the fact that the two shows back-to-back, plus the Euros, were indeed an exceptionally big ask.

But, crucially for the sport, the relatively inexperienced team fielded in Spain showed British jumping's mettle, even without the biggest guns.

Add Sanctos back into the mix. Keep your fingers crossed that Big Star returns to his mind-blowing best. Combine that with a dash of Cella's recognisable white face, and these volatile ingredients might just blend — under a talented chef — to make Rio look even hotter than the Brazilian sun suggests.



Alice Collins
Acting print director
@msAliceCollins

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For more details, see page 97

This week

'Ifreely admit that the best of my fun, I owe it to horse and hound'

Whyte-Melville 1821-1878



The British showjumping team enjoy posing for the camera ahead of the Nations Cup final (see p50)

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98 Horses for sale

Cover picture *by Arnd Bronkhorst* Joe Clee on Utamaro D'Ecaussines





Should consistency be rewarded?

After a win in the Nations Cup, questions are asked as to whether Belgium should miss Rio. Pippa Cuckson reports

HE FEI is under pressure to reward long-term consistency, rather than rely on a single event to qualify teams for the Olympic Games, following Belgium's failure to gain a Rio ticket.

Belgium (pictured, right) topped the European division one Nations Cup league as well as winning Thursday night's first round and the Nations Cup final (Saturday, 26 September) in Barcelona.

However, at the European Championships last month (18-21 September) where the team finished seventh, the country failed to secure a qualification spot for next summer's Olympics.

"We had just one bad weekend, in Aachen. It is a pity," said Dirk Demeersman, the Belgian chef d'equipe.

In contrast, Spain qualified for Rio at Aachen, yet have been relegated from the Nations Cup division one, having finished no better than fourth at any counting competition in the 2015 series.

On Thursday (24 September), Dirk Deemersman the host country was so out of touch after the third rider rotation that Sergio In A Alvarez Moya elected not to jump.



FEI jumping director John Roche told *H&H* he is already engaged in talks with the

International Olympic Committee (IOC) over planned qualification changes in connection with the 2020 Olympic Agenda.

"I am not a fortune-teller, but this is one of the topics under discussion," he said.

In April, the FEI sports forum discussed the potential use of the Nations Cup series to

qualify for the World Equestrian Games (WEG). That change would be easier to apply, as the

Any change to the Olympics would have to be approved by the IOC and could not take effect until 2024.

FEI oversees WEG.

 Despite a shaky record throughout this year's Nations Cup series, Britain finished second after a strong performance from anchorman Joe Clee and Utamaro D'Ecaussines. For full report see p50.



Tension is greater without a martingale

Veterinary

'We just had one

bad weekend.in

Aachen.

It's apity'

Could martingales improve ridden welfare?

MARTINGALES could help inconsistent rein aids from novice riders being transmitted to the horse's mouth, a pilot study has found, writes Lucy Elder.

Dr Hayley Randle from Duchy College in Cornwall tested how martingales affected the rein tension felt by six horses ridden by novice riders. The results were presented at the International Equitation Science Conference (5-8 August).

Six randomly selected horses and novice riders were used in the study, which looked at Irish martingales (pictured, left) and running martingales. First, each pair rode a predetermined route that included walk, trot and halt in both directions without a martingale. This was then repeated twice more, using both of the martingales.

The researchers used a
Centaur Rein Tension Gauge – a
device that attaches between
the reins and the bit – to
measure the tension.

The study found tension was "significantly greater" when the horses were wearing no martingale than when they wore either one.

There was neglible difference

between the tension readings with either type of martingale.

Dr Randle would like to see the study run on a larger scale.

"It was interesting to see that martingales seemed to have a bit of a stabilising effect on rein use by novice riders," she told *H&H*.

"If you stabilise the kit through which riders can give inconsistent signals, that can only be a good thing as it prevents confusion."

H&H vet Karen Coumbe welcomed a larger study, but added: "Other factors might be taken into consideration when using novice riders."

HORSES IN THE NEWS

Consumer

Owner fights stable tax

COULD equestrian businesses and private stables be facing extra taxes?

An MP has held a debate in Parliament to discuss business rates in rural areas following concerns, writes Caroline Bankes.

Jake Berry, MP for Rossendale and Darwen, believes the "seemingly new ways" the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is amassing business rates poses "a direct threat to rural communities and their economy".

At the debate last month (7 September) Mr Berry cited the case of one of his constituents, Alan Walker, who was contacted on 19 March by the Lancashire VOA, which wanted to assess his stables for business rates.

The stabling at Mr Walker's home is used solely to keep his family's horses and the planning permission for the stables specifically precludes commercial use.

Mr Walker has launched an appeal but if unsuccessful could be charged £3,000 a year in business rates on his stables in addition to his council tax.



"I was very surprised. The only local service I use is to have my bins emptied. My home is completely used for domestic purposes," he said.

"This will affect horse owners all over the country so we need to fight this as it is

Last year similar appeals were launched and won by two horse owners in Devon after they proved the equestrian facilities were within the domestic curtilage of their properties (news, 18 October 2014).

The British Horse Society (BHS) receives more complaints about business rates than any other issue.

"We have been working with a lobbying company to

produce a guidance note with advice on how to talk to the VOA and get rates reviewed," said the BHS' Sarah Phillips.

A spokesman for the VOA admitted that in equestrian businesses confusion "can arise in this complex area".

"The legislation hasn't changed since 1988. We assess stables for non-domestic rates unless they meet the criteria for being included in the council tax band of a domestic property," the VOA spokesman told H&H.

"Generally this is when horses are kept for private purposes, within the boundary of the property and those features are an integral part of the property."



BIG STAR

Nick Skelton's London 2012 gold medal-winning partner is back in action. He will be making his comeback at Vilamoura after 16 months out of competition. The 12-yearold stallion last competed at Estoril in July 2014 before time off due to a recurring leg injury.



BLACK CAVIAR

The popular Australian racemare has given birth to a colt by Sebring. This is the nine-vear-old mare's second foal. The colt was delivered in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, on 24 September. Black Caviar retired from racing unbeaten in 2013 after 25 consecutive wins.



ARGENTO

John Whitaker's stallion, who has held the top spot in the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses world rankings list for the third month, has now been approved by Zangersheide and his semen will be distributed in Europe through the Zangersheide studbook.



BANKON LOUIE

Eventer and H&H blogger Rosie Fry has lost her young rider European Championships partner, who was put down after a field accident The homebred had only one cross-country jumping fault in his entire career from BE100 to three-star level.



WATERFORD IV

Elizabeth Bury's prolific winning show cob made his final show ring appearance at the British Show Horse Association (BSHA) national championships. "Jack", now 20, qualified for Horse of the Year Show for 15 consecutive years. He will now go hunting.

Showjumping

Olympic champion cleared

OLYMPIC champion Steve Guerdat has been "cleared of all wrongdoing" by the FEI after two of his horses tested positive for banned substances, writes Amy Mathieson.

"The FEI accepts that the circumstances of the cases were exceptional and that the presence of the three prohibited substances is consistent with poppy seed contamination," read an FEI statement on 28 September.

The FEI added that Steve demonstrated he did not bear "fault or negligence" as well as proving how the banned substances entered the

horses' system.

Steve was provisionally suspended but this was lifted on 27 July after he pleaded that food contamination had caused the positive test. The horses remained banned until 19 September, meaning he missed the Europeans.

Samples were taken at the CSIO5* at La Baule on 17 May from his London 2012 winner Nino Des Buissonnets.

The tests returned positive for codeine and oripavine – banned substances - and morphine, a controlled substance.

On 16 May, samples were taken from Steve's other ride, Nasa. These tests were positive for codeine and morphine.

Steve said he was "delighted" to have been "vindicated".

Samples taken at the CSIOY young riders in Deauville, on 8 May from Charivari KG ridden by Alessandra Bichsel, also returned positive for codeine and oripavine, and morphine. She was also cleared.

Both Swiss riders had used the same feed supplier, and independent laboratory tests have proved that the feed was contaminated with poppy seeds.

Rebecca Bell wins in Vienna

REBECCA BELL flew the flag for Britain's pony riders at the CDI-P Vienna (18-20 September). She and the 12-year-old mare Valido's Sunshine (Valido x Marieton's Jasper) topped the pony team championship test with 73.12%.

The pair, who helped Britain to team gold at the pony Europeans in Malmö, fought it out with Germany's Raphael Netz and the stallion Schierensees Don't Do It throughout the competition.

The two combinations filled first and second positions in all three tests, Raphael pipping Rebecca to the post by 0.5% in the individual test, and also winning the kür.

Veterinary

Burghley vet steps down after 30 years

MICHAEL GIBSON has stepped down from the position of Burghley Horse Trials' veterinary services manager after more than 30 years.

Michael's father, George, was Burghley's first chief veterinary officer and handed over to Michael in the late 1970s. Michael's current practice is based near Stamford.

Grooms

Two new awards introduced for grooms

TWO new accolades have been introduced for grooms in Britain.

The British Grooms' Awards 2015 will now include the Haddon Training yard manager award and the Haddon Training apprentice award.

 Nominations open on 5 October. To nominate a groom visit: www.tinyurl. groomsawards

Farewell to...

Victor Carter

FOUNDER member of the Association of British Riding Schools Victor Carter died on 4 September at the age of 97.

Born in Walthamstow, East London, in 1918, Victor started riding at Snaresbrook Riding School in 1946.

He was in the first batch of students to take and pass the British Horse Society's preliminary instructors' examination.

He went on to run several schools, including Chorleywood House, Herts; Forest Lodge, Essex, and Norton Heath, Essex.

Transport

Are trailer MOTs the future?



Trailers should be checked frequently but unlike cars don't have MOTs

MOT-style tests for horse trailers could still be on the cards despite the European Union's (EU) decision not to include them in last year's law, writes Lucy Elder.

Currently, only trailers over 3.5 tonnes must be periodically tested for roadworthiness.

As most horse trailers are designed to carry up to a gross maximum of 3.5 tonnes or less – depending on design – these are exempt.

The largest Ifor Williams and Equi-Trek horse trailers on sale have a maximum gross-weight limit of 3.5 tonnes.

However, there is provision in the ruling for it potentially to include lighter trailers.

Jon Phillips, of the

Organisation of Horsebox and Trailer Owners, said he would welcome regular trailer testing.

"We see on a daily basis the result of poorly maintained trailers," he said.

"Some of them are just absolutely dreadful. We have horses going through the floors frequently."

Jon added that he thinks regular MOT-style tests could also help tackle thefts as trailers will have a traceable history.

Unlike cars, trailers do not need registration documents, but are security marked with unique serial numbers to discourage thieves.

Trailers should also be checked and

serviced annually.

"It is simple stuff but people don't do it," Mr Phillips added.

He also said it can be difficult to trace how old a trailer is and how many miles it has done.

By 30 April 2019, the European Commission must submit a report on how effective it would be to include light trailers and two- or threewheel vehicles in the law.

The report has to be based on independent studies and will be made available at least six months before any proposals are submitted.

"The commission will assess whether the standards and costs of periodic roadworthiness testing of each category of vehicle is proportionate to the road safety objectives set," the legislation states.

"The report shall be accompanied by a detailed impact assessment analysing the costs and benefits throughout the EU, including the specificities of member states."

H&Hreported on the proposals for the current bill two years ago (news, 31 October 2013), when the EU was considering bringing in tests for all caravans and trailers. However, this part of the bill was dismissed in March 2014.

Lega

Rider awarded £15,000

A rider has gained nearly £15,000 in compensation after her horse died as a result of being spooked by a fast-moving lorry, writes Amy Mathieson.

The accident happened near Pentyrch, Cardiff, on 10 August 2013.

Susanne Lewis was hacking along a lane when a lorry travelling in the opposite direction startled her horse.

The horse – who the rider says was "experienced and sensible" in traffic – reared up and fell over backwards.

It suffered serious injuries and had to be put down. Ms

Lewis had whiplash in her neck and back, and soft tissue damage to her arm.

Both Ms Lewis and a witness confirmed the vehicle was going too quickly to pass the animal safely.

The witness said that the lorry then slowed to a "slow crawl" to "have a better view in his mirror" before driving off.

The case was referred to the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

The solictors alleged fault on the basis that the driver was negligent and did not adhere the Highway Code, by failing to slow down and allow room for the horse.

Ms Lewis was awarded £14,479.55 compensation in August.

"It seems to be a relatively common occurrence that vehicle drivers do not correctly follow the Highway Code when passing horse riders, as they fail to slow down adequately or provide riders with sufficient space," Richard Dykes from HorseSolictor told H&H.

"Until drivers become more knowledgeable, accidents will continue to happen."

• To report an incident visit: www.horseaccidents.org.uk

Perfect condition shows



Broadstone Dolca Vita owned by William Moran and Pearl Underwood

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How do the Dutch do it?

Dutch riders have security that their top mounts won't be sold from under them ahead of the Olympics. So how does the country keep talent at home? Pippa Cuckson reports

ITH quadruple world and European golds in their pockets, the Dutch showjumpers look almost impossible to beat in Rio next year.

Team strategy is a big part of the country's success. But many Dutch riders have one less pressure than their rivals — comfort that their top strings won't disappear from under them in the scramble to buy and sell Rio horses before the FEI's 31 December deadline.

Horse syndication, variously profitdriven and altruistic, is growing fast in equestrianism, though the Dutch approach

Horses suffixed SFN are owned by the Springpaarden Fonds Nederland (Showjumping Fund of the Netherlands), aimed primarily at saving them for championship teams.

On top of that, existing owners of 17 further potential team horses including four in eventing, until recently the Netherlands' weakest discipline are under contract not to sell until

after Rio, through the Dutch Olympic Foundation (NOP).

SFN successes

SFN horses have competed at six of the past seven major medal events. SFN currently owns nine horses — including Zenith, Jeroen Dubbeldam's winning ride at the 2014 World Equestrian Games and last month's European Championships.

The scheme — which is only for showjumpers — was conceived by veteran Dutch photo-journalist Jacob Melissen. Matters came to a head in 2005 when the Netherlands accrued a dismal 45 faults in the La Baule Nations Cup — won by the US, all riding Dutch-breds. On his 10hour drive home, Mr Melissen resolved to contact the major dealers.

"I told them, 'You're all really rich, thanks to equestrian sport," he said. "It's payback time"."

SFN talent-spots horses and then buys them at a preferential rate, often for new riders. Horses competing at four- and five-star cannot be sold abroad between the ages of eight and 12. The original seller retains 25% and shares prize-money and eventual sales profits but, significantly, relinquishes influence over the horse's management.

The NOP is more recent.

"After London 2012, rather than before it, we started to have bad feelings about our existing medallists being sold.

"We saw what happened with Totilas who experienced limited success after switching from Edward Gal to Germany's Matthias Rath after being sold J," said Maarten van der Heijden, the Dutch federation's sport director.

He obtained funding of €1.2m (£880,000) from Rabobank and the national Olympic committee to subsidise the contracted owners' expenses, including horse insurance, over the four-year period leading up to Rio. Jumpers involved include the London 2012 silver medallists Glock's London (Gerco Schröder), VDL Zirocco Blue (Jur Vrieling) and VDL Groep Verdi TN (Maikel van der Vleuten.)

Could the idea work in Britain?

A similar format was developed in 2001

REKINDLING THE LONDON 2012 EXPERIENCE

DAN HUGHES has put owners high on his agenda since becoming the British Equestrian Federation's performance director five months ago.

He told *H&H:*"My first question to anyone who would listen was, 'what is the single most important element to winning medals?'

"The answer invariably was something around having 'the right horses with the right owners at the right time', as without that it didn't matter how good the jockey or the training system was."

Short-term efforts to retain and encourage individual owners include increased communication and hospitality. An owners' dinner during the Blair European Eventing Championships was, he believes, a hit.

At a briefing in London this month, owners will

be asked to complete a warts-and-all questionnaire.

"During the day we want to rekindle some of the excitement and emotion we saw in London 2012," he said. "It will not on its own provide the solution, and it will be interesting to see if it has any impact on what happens before the 31 December horse transfer deadline."

By about 2018, Dan wants to see a proper business approach and "holistic" investment strategy, linked eventually to a coordinated national breeding programme.

"It is only when you set it down that you realise the enormity of the task," he said.

"But do it we must, and quickly, because I fear that without it we will be overtaken in the race for medals."

by Desi Dillingham and Simon Hardwick, respectively chair and founder member of British Dressage.

Mr Hardwick, now head of real estate legal for PricewaterhouseCoopers, said the concept offered tax advantages through the equivalent of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), but it failed to take off.

"Stoneleigh had other priorities, and indications from major owners, back then, were that they did not wish to lose personal control of their investments," he said.

"This managed approach to horseand-rider pairings could still be part of the ownership mix. Attractive tax breaks remain available, though they are not a magic wand."

One such EIS scheme is currently being offered by Lillybrook Showjumpers for European showjumping team debutante Jessica Mendoza, suggesting possible tax relief of 30%. However, investors are reminded that horse values can go down as well as up.

The United States equestrian team owned horses decades ago; but this practice ceased after a lawsuit.

Having won no dressage medals except at the Pan-Am Games since 2006, the US federation recently set up an owners' task force and this May a new medal-orientated syndicate acquired the Sandro Hit eightyear-old Sandronnerhall from Spain for Adrienne Lyle.

Shareholders include Steffen Peters' long-term backer Akiko Yamazaki, who said: "I realised that it was imperative to support other potential members for Team USA to step back on the podium."

A downside of "managed" ownership is the potential for rider upsets; highworth individuals don't usually mind making harsh decisions. Ten months before London 2012, SFN removed star ride Utascha from an angry Eric van der Vleuten and sent her to Jeroen, who rode her until December 2013 when she was sold to Qatar, having turned 13. She died in July this year, after breaking a leg.

Mr Melissen said: "For us it's quite simple. You come to the conclusion that the combination is no longer working and so you need to make changes."



Titus was returned to Guy Williams after a spell with Edwina Tops-Alexander

DECEMBER SALES

THE FEI's deadline looms for pre-Rio transfers – horses must be registered as owned by the same nationality as their rider before 31 December to be eligible for the following year's Olympics. Here is what happened to some potential London 2012 horses sold in December 2011.

- Titus: sold to Edwina Tops-Alexander of Australia, but they didn't get on. Swiftly reunited with Guy Williams – but too late to be re-registered to Team GBR. Still jumping Nations Cups with Guy for Britain.
- Talan: sold by Robert Smith and Di Cornish to Saudi Equestrian Fund for Prince Faisal, but didn't make it onto their 2012 bronze medal squad. Ridden by Abdullah Al Sharbatly since February 2015.
- Maximillian: Swedish horse reregistered on 31 December to John Whitaker, who felt London 2012 was too soon for Argento. Didn't make the team, reunited with Anna Olsson, now represents the Philippines with Marie-Antoinette Leviste.
- Kismet 50: sold by Germany's Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum to the mare's native US. After just five classes under Ray Texel, passed to current rider Candice King.
- Noblesse Des Tess: bought by Kamal Bahamdan from Colombia's Rene Lopez. On Saudi bronze team at London. Still together, winning Wiesbaden grand prix in May.
- FRH Butts Leon: sold for Thailand's Nina Ligon to ride at London 2012, and then back to Germany's Andreas Dibowski thanks to an altruistic owner.

Legal

RSPCA powers under investigation

THE RSPCA is to have its prosecution powers investigated. The Government's environment and select committee announced last week (22 September) that an inquiry will examine if the charity should be allowed to investigate as well as prosecute animal welfare cases.

Neil Parish of the committee said it was important to ensure the "right cases" are taken to court.

In July it was revealed that the RSPCA would no longer pursue those accused of illegal foxhunting through the courts. This decision followed the review by former Metropolitan police officer Stephen Wooler, after the charity was accused of wasting funds and donations by prosecuting hunters for political reasons.

Dressage

Planning for new centre declined

PLANS to build a dressage centre in West Sussex have been rejected by the South Downs National Park (SDNP).

Dressage rider Hannah Hurvenes-Clarke, daughter of high goal polo patron Nick Clarke, had submitted an application for change of use of land at her family's Brackenwood estate near Midhurst.

The proposal also included the building of eight new stables, retention of a barn, horse walker, wash-down area, hay store, access track, parking and exercise track.

But officers at the SDNP advised the planning committee to reject the plans last month (10 September) on the grounds that the area is a "remote and tranquil location" and "equestrian [uses] harm its character and appearance, causing noise and disturbance".

Ms Hurvenes-Clarke said she was disappointed but still hopes that an arrangement can be reached.

Farewell to...

Brian Armstrong

H&H's long-standing point-to-point correspondent has died aged 62. He had been suffering from cancer.

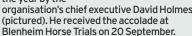
Brian was a correspondent covering the Wessex area and provided reports and photos, as well as features.

"Brian has been the lynchpin of point-topointing in *H&H* for years," said point-topoint editor Aimi Clark.

"His passion for the sport was infectious; he had excellent rapport with jockeys, owners and all connections, and really was a font of knowledge. He will be missed by all at H&H."

AN EVENTING VOLUNTEER

Paul Hayhurst has been named as British Eventing volunteer of the year by the



A TEENAGE CANCER PATIENT

An event held in honour of a teenage eventer with cancer has raised £14.317 for cancer charities. Hannah Francis, 17, from Somerset, was diagnosed with bone cancer in May.



AN ABANDONED FILLY

A skewbald yearling, Lara, is settling in to her new home in Great Wigborough, Essex. Lara was rescued by the RSPCA in April from a hillside and was emaciated with a serious skin condition. She is now in good health and is enjoying the company of her new stablemates.

▲ JOHANNA VARDON

The founder of the National Foaling Bank has been presented with the British Equine Veterinary Association welfare award 2015. Johanna was given the award on 10 September in recognition to her long-term dedication to saving orphaned foals.

GOOD WEEK BADWEEK

▼ ROBERT THORNTON

The jump jockey and former H&H columnist has announced his retirement from the saddle due to injury. The 37-year-old fractured vertebrae in a fall from Say When at Chepstow in April last year.



V A GAME FAIR

The Country Land & Business Association (CLA) will no longer run its annual game fair. A CLA spokesman said the event "has failed to generate enough income" in each of the last three years, and attendance has fallen.



THANNAH SUE BURNETT

The US eventer is recovering from a broken wrist and bruised ribs after a fall in the threestar at Plantation Field, Pennsylvania (20 September).

PAUL CARBERRY

The two-time Irish champion jockey is out of action for up to four months after breaking his leg in a fall at Listowel on Saturday. The 41-year-old fell from Rich Coast at the first fence in the beginners' chase.

THE WEEK

$\texttt{OUOTEOF} \quad \textbf{`Idofeel the pressure, but I am good}$ underit-itpumps meup'



And finally: Life in plastic

IS there no end to Barbie's talents?

Now her flawless looks are matched by her vaulting style with the launch of the Barbie Saddle 'N Ride Horse.

The Barbie doll rider is, as usual, looking pretty in pink. Her riding kit consists of pink jodhpurs, gloves and helmet, a flowery top, denim jacket and brown riding boots. There is also a purple version.

The saddle and bridle are also in Barbie's distinctive pink colours, but the horse is a dun colour with bright blue eyes.

When Barbie puts her hand on part of

the mane she automatically jumps on. One more push of the button on top of the horse's head and she rides off. No leg aids are needed, just four AAA batteries.

The allure of a Barbie horse that moves is predicted to be popular this Christmas with Toys "R" Us rating the toy as one of the bestsellers on its "hot toy" list, along with Star Wars gadgets.

Pony-mad tweens will probably prefer the Barbie Saddle N' Ride horse providing their parents are prepared to fork out *£*49.99.

DIARY 1-7 October

Young horse championships

See the young horse eventing championships at Osberton, Notts, from 1-4 October. www. osberton-horse.co.uk

Spotted pony show

Spotfest is being held at The Grange Equestrian Centre, Okehampton, 3 October. www.britishspottedponysociety.co.uk

Go to HOYS

Head along to the

NEC in Birmingham to see top horses and riders compete at the Horse of the Year Show. www.hoys.co.uk

Watch reining

The British Reining Championships is at Bodiam International Arena, on 3-4 October. www.oldewalnuttreeproductions.co.uk





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Letters



SUPPORT OUR YOUNG EVENTERS

Sir – In his column (24 September) Mark Todd took a tilt at the new generation of British eventers. "Are young Brits hungry enough? he asked. "Are they given too much on a plate?" Perhaps, he implied, they don't have "the right work ethic".

As Mark well knows, eventing demands everything of horse and rider. And, as he says, no one wants to detract from the success of "foreign" and older British riders. But to suggest that young Brits lack ambition and work less hard is offensive.

Kitty King, Izzy Taylor, Gemma Tattersall and Laura Collett, to name just a few, follow punishing routines not just riding and training, but building the teams of horses, grooms, sponsors and owners that established riders (such as Mark) already have in place.

And as for his suggestion young Brits should push "further out of their comfort zone", at least one drove back overnight from Blair, snatched a few hours sleep, exercised half a dozen horses before loading the lorry and setting off to Blenheim.

Surely the best way to put our young British eventers on top of the podium is to back the most talented and hard working in the way that Sport England and UK Sport do.

Mark Todd is far too distinguished just to dismiss as a grumpy old Kiwi. But for his column also to command respect, it must be fair. And on the rare occasion it isn't, surely H&H should refrain from making his comments front page headlines? It is very

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Let the music play

totally disagree with Caroline Preston's comments on music with dressage at the Blair Europeans (letters, 24 September). There is nothing more distracting for a competitor than a frosty silence which is invariably broken by a random noise at some point during the test.

Personally I would love to see Blair's idea of competitors choosing their own music to accompany their tests adopted across the board at all levels. It is also more enjoyable to watch as spectators

can chat (at respectful levels) without feeling they are interrupting a performance. This should, in turn, lead to a more relaxed atmosphere for all involved, and with luck more riders (especially at lower levels where tension tends to be more evident) looking as though they are actually enjoying their test and transmitting this to their horses, who will feel more able to work as they do at home at times when it really matters.

LYNSEY TYSON Northwich, Cheshire

Thewriter of the letter of the week wins a bottle of Champagne Taittinger



discouraging to up-andcoming riders who deserve our support. Gill Richards, Chippenham, Wilts Eventing editor Pippa Roome replies: For our columnists, we choose riders and industry figures who are both respected and bold enough occasionally to

who are both respected and bold enough occasionally to stick their necks out, precisely because we want to inspire this sort of debate. Including controversial statements such as these on the cover encourages people to want to find out more about what Mark has to say.

We don't always agree with our columnists – or expect our readers to do so – but Mark's view cannot be dismissed out of hand. Although British eventers enjoy much success, we haven't had a British Badminton or Burghley winner except for William Fox-Pitt since 2009.

While I agree that many of our riders work hard and are talented – and that the support they gain from the various programmes is invaluable – it is only right that we ask how we can develop more four-star and gold medal winners.

LOOK AFTER OWNERS

Sir – I couldn't agree more with Simon Reynolds' plea (comment, 3 September) for county shows to provide enough passes for owners, producers and grooms to get in.

As the owner of two showing ponies I spend a great deal on entries, and often stabling. I also consider it right that my producer and her groom should receive their passes from me and not carry the cost themselves. But with the need to deliver my 11-year-old jockey to her mounts, and my and my husband's desire to watch

her, the cost of the extra entries quickly becomes excessive; as a participant, who contributes to the exhibits at the show, I resent that additional cost. S Duncan Essex

HAPPY PONY CLUB VOLUNTEER

Sir – I travelled 250 miles to the Pony Club National Championships with a musical ride team.

I was struck by the hugeness of the event, but the girls looked amazing in their costumes, and rode through the lorry park as if they owned it.

We were in the ribbons and I am so proud of the riders. Of varying ages and ability, they have learnt about tolerance and support, even when it goes wrong, and have all grown from the experience.

If any other volunteers are considering the long



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journey I would encourage them - it was worth it. Vic Pearson South Dorset Hunt branch of the Pony Club

HEAD FIRST

Sir – As a professional horseman, I have ridden horses of all types over the past 50 years wearing a flat tweed cap (news, 17 September, letters, 24 September). In June, my luck ran out and I ended up head first on the floor. The resulting brain injury has meant hospitalisation and rehabilitation in a specialised unit.

My advice? If you don't want to fall off, don't get on! If you are going to get on, always wear protective head gear.

Duncan Brown Peterborough, Cambs

GIVE IT A GO

Sir – We are approaching the time of year when your letters pages will be full of people recalling what wonderful times they had at newcomers.

Last year I attended the newcomers' meet with the New Forest Hounds on my veteran pony.

As I nervously unboxed I was soon greeted by one of the regular followers who ensured I found my way to the correct place. We had a great day; the New Forest is so wide and open you can pick your own lines and there is little jumping, so a great place to start hunting.

I returned for five more days and each time was made welcome. My old boy loved being out; it has given him a new lease of life.

So give it a go. You will end up tired and muddy, but smiling. Helen Fricker

Bishops Waltham, Hants

NEXT



PLAN YOUR WINTER

Make the most of the chilly season - what's new this year and how to try it

EVENTING

Osberton and British Young Horse Championships

SHOWJUMPING

LA Masters action

H&H INTERVIEW

Tim Bonner on the challenges facing the Countryside Alliance

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'The best of my fun, I owe it to ...'

My warming-up tip...

I have to make sure I get focused before getting on, then I have a clear feeling in my head of what I am looking for when I'm on my horse.

Looking back...

At my first Badminton with Society Spice when I was 19. I had the most



amazing week and he went really well, finishing just outside the top 20, but in my showjumping round he embarrassingly nearly jumped me off directly in front of the royal box, for no apparent

reason. It was a totally normal jump, but I obviously thought I would add a little extra airtime...

When I'm competing at...

Badminton or Burghley – they are the events I aspire to compete at and are everything I have been working towards.

First pony...

Eros, he was about 40 and too old and stiff to do anything more than stand still – he was a perfect climbing frame.

Watching...

Glee or One Born Every Minute – I'm addicted.

My favourite restaurant... Prezzo. I love a good Italian.



EMILY LLEWELLYN

The 26-year-old eventer on ambitions to be a pop star, "climbing frame" ponies and and scary movies

Most memorable win...

Two equally memorable wins include the young rider European Championships in 2008 and Bramham CCI3* under-25s in 2009, both with Pardon Me II.

Listening to...

The six CDs currently in my lorry are the Spice Girls' greatest hits, Little Mix, Ella Henderson, Destiny's Child's greatest hits, Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran.

Getting away from it all... I do enjoy the very occasional

MY PLAN B: if it hadn't been eventing...

I would have liked to have been a pop star

— it looks like a lot of fun.

spa day at Pennyhill Park, where the England rugby team train, and any sunny holiday will do me – anything to sit down and relax.

Remembering...

I'm not sure if this is funny or just a bit grim but it was one of my first Boekelos and I went to the party on the Tuesday night, totally unaware of how wild Boekelo parties are. I got totally carried away and then found myself throwing up on three different occasions on the way to the briefing on Wednesday morning, which was probably only a fourminute walk from my lorry. Luckily I had until the Friday to recover and I would like to point out that was the first and last time I have ever been that drunk!

Letting my hair down...

Chocolate and *Glee* – there is a theme here.

Earliest equestrian memory...

Winning a cup at the Prince Phillip mounted games in 1995 when I was six — a proud moment.

Funniest date I've ever been on...

The funniest date would have to be with my boyfriend, polo player and showjumper Max Routledge. He knew that I liked the cinema so offered to take me.

I picked the movie, which ended up being the most twisted and disturbing movie ever and gave me nightmares. Then it also came to light that Max actually hates the cinema and can't sit still for more than five minutes at a time.

Settling down with...

Cosmopolitan magazine – it's trashy, easy reading.

Secret weapon...

My bling belt that I wear with my breeches. I've had it since I was 12.

Biggest indulgence...

Guylian chocolates with Blossom Hill rosé. **H&H**



NEXT WEEK: Dan Greenwood

Pictures by www.trevor-meeks-photography.co.uk, David Miller and Julia Rau. Words by Stephanie Bateman Monty Roberts and Kelly Marks



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HE term hydrotherapy refers to the use of water – hot, cold, as steam or ice – to enhance health and wellbeing.

While simple cold hosing remains a tried and trusted remedy for tired or filled legs, many horse owners are using more sophisticated means of harnessing the healing powers of water. From ice boots and underwater training treadmills to state-of-the-art equine swimming pools, the modern horse world is awash with new therapeutic options.

But what can hydrotherapy accomplish? The health benefits for humans are well documented. Hydrotherapies such as water treadmill exercise and swimming are known to enhance cardiovascular and muscular function, decrease limb pain and inflammation, reduce limb loading and improve joint motion.

In the equine world, however, many questions are still to be

answered. It is hoped that ongoing research will add scientific weight to the perceived beneficial effects of various aquatic therapies.

How does it work?

HYDROTHERAPY is based on the combined effect of five variables: buoyancy, viscosity, hydrostatic pressure, temperature and salt concentration.

Buoyancy is a lifting force. In horses, water at the level of the shoulder produces a 50-60% reduction in bodyweight. Increased buoyancy reduces the effects of loading forces on the joints and the surrounding muscles, tendons and ligaments. This helps reduce pain and inflammation, and encourages better joint motion.

Viscosity encourages greater use and control of muscles. Water is 800 times more viscous than air. The increased effort needed to

WATER SAFETY

- NEVER apply ice for a prolonged period of time or directly on to the skin. Use a damp cloth as a buffer to protect tissue and dissipate the cold.
- Be aware of tides and dangerous currents at the beach or in fast-moving rivers. Always check underwater footing.
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move through water requires increased muscle activity, which improves muscle strength and joint stability.

Hydrostatic pressure facilitates neuromuscular (nerve and muscle) function by stimulating nerves and receptors in joints. This can reduce



oedema (fluid swelling), enhance joint motion and relieve pain.

Temperature can have a dual effect. Warm water improves muscular blood flow and stimulates lymphatic drainage. Cold water reduces blood flow, lessening inflammation and pain.

Salt concentration delivers antiinflammatory and pain-relieving effects. The osmotic effect of salt draws swelling from inflamed tissues.

In one study, horses with known lower limb injuries were stood in cold saltwater baths (5-9°C) for 10 minutes, three days a week, for four weeks. Healing of digital flexor tendon and suspensory ligament lesions was apparent, both clinically and on ultrasound scans. In the same study, visual improvements in the degree of soft tissue swelling were apparent within the first eight days.

Exercising a horse in water provides a medium in which these factors can be altered to tailor individual



Cold hosing remains a popular way of reducing blood flow, and therefore inflammation

British dressage star Valegro hones his fitness on an underwater treadmill. This uses different muscle patterns from walking on dry land

rehabilitation programmes for specific musculoskeletal conditions.

Using cold water and ice

THE effects of cold therapy include constriction of blood vessels (vasoconstriction) and reduced blood flow, resulting in a decrease in bleeding and swelling. Nerve conduction is also lessened, reducing pain. A lower metabolic rate in turn reduces cell death from hypoxia (insufficient oxygen), which helps preserve tissue viability and can shorten healing time.

Cold therapy can be achieved via several methods, including hosing and ice packs. To be most effective, tissue temperatures must be reduced to between 15 and 19°C (tissue damage can occur when limbs are exposed to prolonged cold temperatures). Cold therapies can be effective to tissue depths of up to 4cm, depending on blood supply and fat thickness.

Timing is critical. Cold therapy is most effective when applied immediately after acute injury; after 48 hours the benefit is much less. During this 48-hour window, 10-20 minutes of cold hosing or iced water treatment is advised with breaks between sessions of between 30 minutes and four hours.

Commercial cold packs for horses are constantly evolving, although studies in the cooling of human skin have shown that the application of

RESEARCH

EQUINE underwater treadmills are becoming popular in the sport horse world, yet there is relatively little information available about this training method.

With the safety of horses and handlers in mind, the World Class Programme of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) is currently conducting extensive research into the area. This work is being led by Rachel Murray from the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, and a member of the BEF Scientific Advisory Group.

"wet ice" (chopped ice wrapped in a wet cloth) is at least as effective as "dry ice" (ice flakes in a plastic bag).

Total immersion or treadmill?

SWIMMING can have a cardiorespiratory benefit in equine fitness development. Horses are not natural swimmers, however, and not all will adapt well to this training method.

When swimming, a horse moves with an extended back posture. In my experience racehorses tend to cope best with this, whereas some dressage horses and showjumpers that are trained to work in a flexed back outline may be less suited to this form of exercise.

An underwater treadmill is another fitness option, although the muscle patterns a horse uses on a treadmill are different to those on the ground. The horse is committed to the speed set by the apparatus, which may lead to compensatory changes in the way he moves and cause further issues.

When walked in the sea or through a river, a horse uses muscle patterns nearer to those of propulsion on land and can regulate his own speed.

Another important factor is the depth of the water. If this is kept quite low, the horse is encouraged to pick his feet up in a similar way to when doing pole work. Yet if the water is deep, the muscle pattern changes and horses are more prone to move with an extended back posture similar to that used when swimming. H&H

 NEXT WEEK: What being a specialist vet really means.

The vet

DAVID ROWLANDS is a sport horse vet with Penbode Equine Vets, an XLEquine practice based in Cornwall and Devon. He is the team vet for the British iunior and young rider dressage squads and also part of the **BEF World Class** Programme. Visit www.penbodevets. co.uk or call 01409 255549.

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HORSE HOUND INTERVIEW

Joe Clee

The Belgium-based British showjumper talks to **Hannah Lemieux** about keeping his cool, steering clear of politics and his chances of an Olympic debut



Nations Cup success in Rotterdam: Joe is accruing plenty of top-level experience ahead of the Olympics

'If I start

thinking about

it now, I'll be a

nervous wreck

by the time the

Olympics come

around'

HE critics were silenced when Britain secured Olympic qualification at the European Championships in Aachen this summer — and Belgium-based Joe Clee was at the forefront of the British team's success. The team finished just 0.76 of a penalty away from bronze and Joe was crowned best of the Brits with his long-term campaigner Utamaro D'Ecaussines. But there were mixed emotions for

"I was really happy for the country that we got an Olympic qualification, but it was disappointing not to get a medal — we came so close [the team finished fourth]," says Joe.

the 37-year-old.

"I was proud to be on the team and I felt like I owed them something after my performance at WEG [World Equestrian Games], where I didn't go as

well as I should have. The Europeans were my second chance and I was determined."

The pressure piled on the Brits at this year's Europeans was heavy, following dismal performances at the Hickstead and Dublin Nations Cups, and Joe believes his WEG experience helped him keep a cool head.

"Competing at a Europeans you need experience and that can only be learned by riding at championship level — it's made easier by knowing the format. I do feel the pressure but I am good under it — it pumps me up," he adds.

Joe has formed an admirable bond with his top ride "Uta" that no doubt has contributed to his success with the 11-year-old. He has produced the stallion since he was a five-year-old.

"I know him very well and have done everything with him. He's an easy ride and his mentality is amazing. He has to work hard to jump those big fences but he does it and enjoys it."

The pair have enjoyed numerous Nations Cup successes, having been part of the winning team in Rotterdam this year, and leading Britain to second at last weekend's final.

With Rio beckoning

next year, how does Joe rate his chances of making his Olympic debut?

"With the likes of Big Star, Cella and Hello Sanctos probably all in contention it could be a struggle to get on the team. I'll have to work hard to get a place.

"It's still a long way off so I'm trying not to think too much about it. If I start



thinking about it now, I'll be a nervous wreck by the time the Olympics come around," he says.

"Di Lampard [the British showjumping performance manager] is great at putting teams together and making sure everyone is on the same page. I think everyone brings something different to a team and she is a brilliant leader."

'A long process'

REWIND 13 years, when Joe made the decision to leave his home in the British Isles and settle in Belgium because of the better job opportunities. It has been a "long process" to reach the top level of showjumping but that decision to move abroad, combined with copious amounts of hard work, is finally paying off.

"In the UK it is difficult to find a job riding for someone, especially at the time I was looking," says Joe. "I didn't have the financial backing so I had to work for someone."

A chance meeting eight years ago with Ludwig and Jasmin Criel, with whom Joe is



now based, was the turning point his career.

"I was lucky — I was in the right place at the right time when I met the Criels," he says. "It took me a long time to get there and at times I felt I was banging my head against a brick wall but it does make it more satisfying."

Alongside his top horses, Joe also enjoys bringing on the youngsters at the Criels' yard. The riding is split between Joe and the yard's stable jockey, Portuguese rider Bernardo Mathias, with Joe riding eight horses a day when he is not away competing.

"I love producing the young horses, it keeps me busy and brings massive satisfaction to see them go on and do well — it gives me a buzz," he says.

He's an Englishman at heart but his home is now firmly in Belgium, having met his wife, Julie, 11 years ago at Lummen — coincidently on the day we speak the couple are celebrating their wedding anniversary.

"My home is here in Belgium now but I'll always be English and I do miss my friends and family. However, for my kids [Katie, six; Liam, four; Emily, two] it is their home, and it is where my business is," he says.

From his roots in Yorkshire, Joe went on to learn his trade as stable jockey for Brendon Stud in West Sussex before moving overseas.

"I started there when I was 17, I stayed for one year and then went back in 2001 for another couple of years. Cyril Light certainly put the winning streak in me. He wanted to win every time out and you learnt to run fast if you didn't. I have fond memories of my time there," he says of the stud that also fostered the riding careers of Scott Brash and John Renwick.

It may have been a long road for the showjumper but his dedication is now paying off — and being recognised too. With thoughts turning to Rio, Joe will be gunning for his Olympic debut and why not? He's worked hard to get here — he won't be stopping now. **H&H**

 NEXT WEEK: the Countryside Alliance's Tim Bonner

Joe on...

Britain vs Belgium

"A great job has been done for showjumping in the UK — there are more international shows than ever before with new ones like Bolesworth and Liverpool. Next year I want to try and get over more often. However, Belgium has a good quantity of quality shows. I have both two- and three-star shows only a few hours' drive from me.

"Riding on the British team and not being based in the UK doesn't bother me sometimes it is nice not to be tied up in any politics and I don't tend to read the media."

Childhood heroes

"GROWING up in Yorkshire, I was in the Pony Club with Robert Whitaker and it was at the time John was competing Milton, so John was my childhood hero. I am still very much in awe of him and I've yet to ride on a team with him.

I have so much respect for both John and Michael, to be able to stay at the top for so long and stay motivated. Riding on the British team with Michael was amazing — you come away thinking 'how does he do it?'. Both John and Michael have pure talent that I don't believe can be learned."

Staying fit

"I go running around the roads three times a week, eat healthily and don't smoke. Riding so many each day obviously helps too. I do like my food so I have to work hard on my weight as I put it on quite easily."



Family man: Joe relaxes with his three children, Liam, Katie and Emily, who count Belgium as home

Move it like... Richard Davison

The 60-year-old dressage stalwart on portion control, finding motivation and forgetting who is watching

ORNERS can be a dressage rider's secret weapon. If you train for corners in a consistent manner — instead of seeing them as something simply to get around – they'll help a horse develop three things: flexibility, as he bends his body; collection, as he takes his weight on his hindquarters, and impulsion, as he comes out of the corner.

This simple exercise can be used early on in a horse's education. Ride towards a corner in trot and walk a few metres before it. Complete an extra-deep corner in small walk steps, before making an immediate transition to trot as you exit. Stay on the same rein and repeat on every corner, for a minimum of 10 corners in succession.

At some point your horse will anticipate both transitions, becoming more responsive both mentally and physically. You'll then need to use less rein and leg, and can begin to lighten and refine your aids.

This should lay the foundations of collection on the approach to a corner and impulsion as you leave it. Once this is embedded, you can use the corners in a test situation to regain any lost balance and revitalise your horse's energy. Never let your horse dictate the size of a corner, instead always plan how deep or shallow you intend each corner to be.

NEXT WEEK: showjumper Jessica Mendoza

In the zone

- In a test I focus only on my horse I watch his ears as they tell me where he is looking, feel his muscles under my leg, listen to his breathing and continuously assess how he is responding to my signals.
- might be giving, or if I might win, or who may be watching. None of those things help me influence my horse, which is all that matters.

Avoiding excess

 As I get older it seems that every piece of toast or glass of wine goes to my waistline. Instead of crash dieting, though, I'm now working on portion control and a calorie deficit fingers crossed!

Finding motivation

 In terms of fitness, there is nothing better than actually riding horses. We all need motivation and mine is having more good horses ready to come out at top level next spring.

Keeping it simple

- In dressage, we have it easy in some respects. Jumpers and event riders don't know what difficulties they're faced with until they turn up at the ringside, but we've known our test for months beforehand and our arena layout and surface is always the same.
- Of course there is always the chance of a spook, or of our horse misinterpreting our signals, but relatively there are fewer unknowns. H&H

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The world's greatest event horse has a heart that exceeds his natural talent, and an equally peerless rider

EGENDARY horses are usually marked by an indefinable presence, something that shouts "look at me". Sam doesn't. Yet his record sets him apart as the most brilliant event horse we are ever likely to see. The Olympic, world and European champion won his first CCI4* at Luhmühlen in 2009, and hasn't been out of the top three since. But when he was presented to the stallion licensing commission in Marbach as a two-year-old he was dismissed as: "Nondescript — his head is too big, he has no presence and a funny jumping technique." He was sold at auction for just €8,000 (£5,880) to the sole bidders, the Kreuters. Eight years later, he was advertised for €2m.

German team trainer Chris Bartle says that what sets the horse apart is his rider, Michael Jung.

"It's 75% Michael, 25% Sam's heart," says Chris. "But his heart counts for a lot; he gives it everything. He wasn't born with exceptional ability, but he tries his heart out.

Irish junior silver medallist Lucca Stubington enjoyed an astonishing boost to her CV when she and Chris' head girl Elli Garrood were asked to keep Sam ticking over after Burghley, while Michael headed to the Europeans.

"He's easy-going, but incredibly difficult to ride because he's so tuned in to Michael," said Lucca. "My aids just didn't work. I asked for walk to trot and got half-pass.

"Michael seems to ride him by feel, like Sam can read his thoughts — it was cool to have a glimpse of that."

Lucca was struck by Sam's exceptional balance.

"He's not at all flamboyant, but he doesn't give a single mark away; if you say turn, he turns. And he was so supple — even though he'd won Burghley the day before."

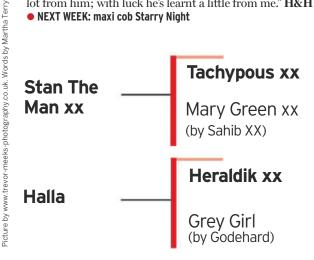
While Sam is easy to handle, he was initially a bit hyper. At his first show, he jumped out of his horsebox window.

"He is very sensitive to noise and atmosphere," says Chris. "Michael takes another horse to prize-givings, and has always limited unnecessary exposure to atmosphere."

For all the talk of Michael being the making of Sam, it's fair to say they've put each other on the world map.

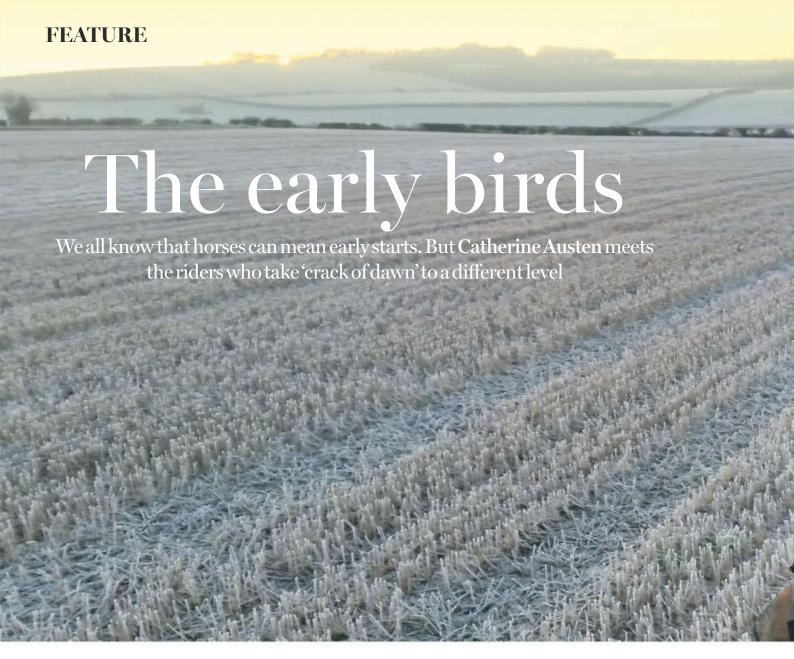
As Michael modestly said after Burghley: "I've learnt a lot from him; with luck he's learnt a little from me." H&H

NEXT WEEK: maxi cob Starry Night









'My friends think

I'm bonkers —

but to achieve

results, you have

to put in the time'

'You really have to want to do it': with careful organisation, and plenty of motivation, riding in the early hours can be rewarding T'S one thing occasionally getting up before dawn to do your horse before going autumn hunting, or leaving for a competition. It's quite another when that is your daily routine — every day, all year round.

"You really have to want to do it, especially in the pitch black and the wind and rain in winter," says

Angela Gladding, a bookkeeper with three dressage horses on DIY livery.

Angela gets up at 5am every morning to ride and muck out before starting work at 8am. She often teaches after work, and her weekends are filled with judging and competing.

"My friends think I am bonkers — but to achieve results, you have to put in the time," she says. "My mum is horsey and really supportive,

and my partner is a lorry driver so he gets up any time from 3.30am onwards, and is normally out of the house well before I am."

Katie Lawrence, who works as a development engineer for McLaren, says: "I have to ride first thing as work can often run into the early hours of the morning, especially if we have a deadline to get a car prepared for a test. Although it is lovely in the summer in the evenings, I can't risk not getting my horse exercised."

Emma Lee-Smith is in the army, and commutes an hour to work each morning. She frequently rides both her horses — with whom she does working hunters and eventing — at 5am.

"I'm lucky that the roads round us are fairly quiet," Emma says. "We don't have a school or a horse walker

> so all our exercising is done by hacking out. We use a very bright head torch and hi-vis clothing, and we have ridden by the headlights of a car following us in the past!"

To make the most effective use of your time in the early mornings, preparation is key.

Philippa Ingleby, who works as an internal auditor and competes two dressage horses, says: "I arrive at the yard with a very clear to-do list, in terms of chores and exercising — useful as my

processing powers tend to be slower at 6am! I keep a large, clean trug at home, which goes to and from the yard, with all the things I need to take.

"I prepare everything — lunch, work clothes, yard clothes — the night before, when I also set up a morning plan so as to be efficient.

"In terms of chores, the horses are deep-littered and I try to be logical — one trip to the tap with all

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the buckets, one trip to the haybarn, for example, and using haybars rather than having to fill haynets. I don't get sidelined in the mornings by filling up feed bins, mending, tidying or cleaning tack. Grooming is the minimum to clean areas where tack and rugs go. At the weekends, I stock up and make sure everything is set up for the week ahead."

Philippa also gives her horses a low-starch, low-sugar breakfast so that they can be worked straight away after eating.

Being able to ride in a school with lights is extremely helpful, says Becky Morrish, who events three horses around a full-time job as a business analyst. She rides one or two horses in the morning before leaving for work at 8am, and then either one or two in the evening.

"I don't jump particularly big under lights once it's dark and I make sure I use brightly coloured poles," she says.

Do horses become much spookier if working under lights, which must cast shadows?

"It's like everything, if you assume they will just get on with it, they do. They would spook if I let them!" she says.

Becky keeps her horses on her family's farm, and will hack around it until there is no light left.

"I can't hack when it is completely dark because of rabbit holes," she says.

Angela's yard also has a floodlit arena, but she hacks out a couple of times as week as well.

Floodlights are a godsend for those who frequently work their horses outside of daylight hours

THE DIARY OF AN EARLY BIRD: BECKY MORRISH

5am: get up

5.30am: feed, ride – school, hack or jump – two

horses. Rug up and turn out

7.30am: shower/breakfast/dress for work

8am: drive to work

9am-5.30pm: work (swim in lunch hour)

6.15pm: arrive home

6.45pm: ride, evening stable duties, go to gym/run

8.30pm: home 10-10.30pm: bed

"I found that if the moon was bright, you could see your way quite well," she says. "I do make sure I am on paths I know are safe from rabbit holes, and I don't hack on the roads, which are busy round us, in the dark."

The right kit

IN the winter, the right clothing — for both rider and horse — is important.

"I have thermal yard gloves, base layers, a neck warmer, thermal socks, a thermal soft-shell waterproof and windproof breeches," says Philippa, and her horses have waterproof, fleece-lined exercise sheets.

In very cold conditions, warming the horse up sufficiently to be able to work safely and effectively is important.

Philippa has rehabilitated both her horses from injuries, and is careful not to rush their warm-ups.

"I do invest the time to do carrot stretches, in-hand hindleg crossing and backing exercises," she says.

Sam Wright lives in South Africa and showjumps at 1.35-1.40m level. She gets up at 4.30am to ride her horses before going to work in digital marketing.

"My biggest fear with riding in the morning is injuries in the cold, so I take extra care to ensure the horses are warmed up and cooled down correctly," she says.

If the temperature is too many degrees below zero, things do become tricky.

"I find in-hand work useful if the school freezes," says Katie. "I can teach my young horse a lot in walk, and



'Early mornings are useful as I can ride out while the roads are quiet — when you ride a highly strung dressage diva this is a bonus'

it helped us bond during the first few months I owned him — I bought him in December."

But there are definite benefits to early starts.

Vicky Hodge says: "It's the most peaceful time of day. Before work I will have mucked out, sorted the yard and often ridden. Early mornings are also useful for the fitness work as I can ride out while everyone is still in bed and the roads are quiet — when you ride a highly strung dressage diva this is an added bonus."

Vicky owns and runs her own livery yard, as well as working at least 60 hours a week in a senior role in a sub-sea company called DeepOcean.

"You need very strong self-motivation — and I also have a hacking buddy, Rachel Turner — we motivate each other to ride in awful weather," says Vicky.

"One upside is that in the summer the school rides better with the morning dew on it," says Philippa. "And at my new yard it's only me before 8am. It's like having my own 20x60m arena. You are far more likely to have to share the school in the evenings."

Family relations

HOW do these early starts affect family life?

Philippa says: "My husband, Bryan, would prefer it if I rode in the evenings, but mornings work better for me — and he likes to eat before 7.30pm. I make a protein shake in the mornings, and it makes such a noise that it was waking Bryan up — so now I keep it in the tack room and switch it on while the horses are eating their breakfast."

Katie's boyfriend will muck out while she rides if he stays over. "That means I can lie in until 6am — I'm very lucky!" she says.

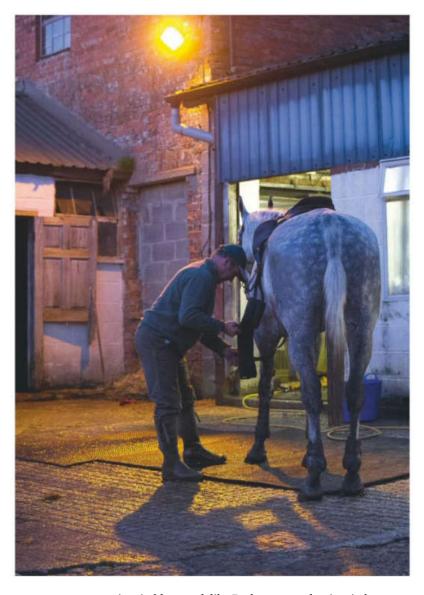
Becky's mother is, she says, "a huge help".

"She's around in the day if the vet, farrier or physio comes — and she often brings the horses in from the field and picks out their feet, so when I come home from work I can just put the tack on and ride. That helps me get in the door at 8.30pm, not 10pm."

Becky admits that she is always tired.

"Part of the problem is that I work at a desk, so I have to swim, run and go to the gym to be fit enough to event at the level I want to."

In fact, it is striking that everyone mentioned in this feature is as dedicated to their own fitness as that of their horse. Emma Lee-Smith plays national-league hockey as well as riding. Angela goes boxing twice a week alongside doing a kettlebells class and an early-morning boot camp session once a week. Philippa takes the opportunity of having her horses brought in and turned out for her at the weekends to compete



Make sure everything is prepared in advance, to save time and hassle on the very early mornings in triathlons and, like Becky, runs and swims in her lunch hour.

It is no surprise that these "early birds" achieve as much as they do, on and off their horses — their willpower and determination is evident. **H&H**

DOS AND DON'TS

DON'T... keep pressing snooze on your alarm clock

DON'T... get distracted by chatting to other

liveries – do that in the evenings or at weekends

DON'T... be in a rush. It won't help you ride effectively or efficiently, so leave enough time to

achieve what you have set out to do **DON'T...** skimp on the warmest, most waterproof

clothing for you and your horse – and wear hi-vis if hacking on the roads

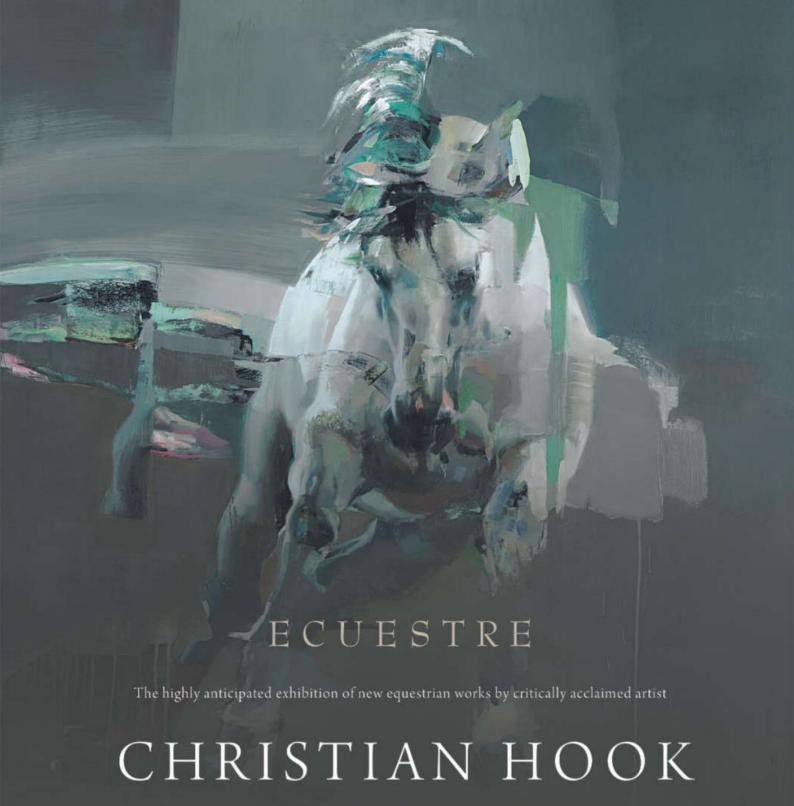
DO... keep dry shampoo, deodorant and scent in

the car

DO... invest in a light-up alarm clock and automatic coffee-maker

DO... be super-organised – lay exactly the right tack and kit out the night before

DO... be realistic. 6am is probably not the time to teach your horse flying changes for the first time



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The health kick

In an age when social media is awash with snaps of green smoothies and people are brandishing their #eatclean lives, where do busy riders fit in? **Sue Polley** meets the equestrians who've embraced a health kick — and are reaping the rewards

ONSIDER for a moment the amount of time we spend agonising over what to feed our horses, painstakingly measuring out the winning formula that will unleash their potential. And then think about the somewhat different situation in our own feed rooms.

"Riders often go for what is quick and convenient but the sugar content in these foods and drinks actually has the opposite effect to what is required," explains health coach Lauren Barber, who started her business to help people find out what foods work best for them. "These foods don't fill you up and the high sugar and fat content make you feel more sluggish and less focused after an initial 'high'.

"Everyone's body is different but, in general, riders don't drink enough water and don't eat often enough to maintain the balanced body sugar levels required for concentration and quick reactions."

But with equestrian sport getting increasingly professional across the board, is change afoot when it comes to giving our diet some TLC?

'I really started to struggle'

DRESSAGE rider Maria Eilberg is just one of the riders who have reaped the rewards of working with World Class Programme sports dietician Julia Scott Douglas.

"Julia has been helping me to analyse what I do and come up with practical suggestions for improvement," says Maria.

"When I was younger I would be out on the yard early mucking out and would then come in and have a huge bowl of cereal and fruit, which would keep me going for the day," she says. "However, when I started riding more I couldn't do that as it gave me indigestion, so I stopped. I really started to struggle and my parents became concerned that I wasn't eating enough.

"They recently bought me a smoothie machine and it's been great. I make myself a smoothie with banana, egg, milk and whatever other fruit or veg I have and keep it with me all day. It takes two minutes to make and I sip it between rides — it's really filling and keeps me going."

England polo player Mark Tomlinson is another who has realised the need to focus on his own health as his sport has become more professional.

"Most teams have invested in personal trainers and physios, which is important as the game has become much more physical and faster," he explains.

"Riding is a complete sport as far as muscle groups are concerned so I ensure that I do a combination of stretching and Pilates every day to keep my core supple and supplement this with jogging, circuit training, cycling and swimming to keep my



Flora Harris' concentration levels have improved since ditching junk food

cardio fitness levels up. The latter is important to cope with the sheer physical challenge of remaining strong and in control when travelling at speed."

Mark pays equal attention to his diet in his ongoing bid to stay one step ahead of the opposition.

"I'm lucky in that I'm naturally quite scrawny so I can pretty much eat what I want without gaining weight," he admits. "I don't pig out in the evenings or drink alcohol before a game any more though as it affects my sleep and leaves me feeling sluggish. I make a conscious effort to down a couple of pints of water every morning as this just makes me feel better. I'm a fan of electrolyte drinks as they help to stabilise blood sugar and increase tolerance when working hard.

"I also make sure I snack little and often on things like nuts, breakfast bars and dried fruit."

What triggered these changes for Mark?

"I always want to improve my performance and making small changes like this worked for me. When you find something that works it makes you more confident and motivates you to do more," he says.

'The key has been getting organised'

EVENTER Flora Harris also saw the positive results of eating less but more often after gaining weight.

"With the help of Julia Scott Douglas I learnt to make the effort to eat breakfast, which I previously used to skip, and to snack on cereal bars and fruit throughout the day rather than on junk food, which I then supplemented with a huge evening meal," she says. "I also try to run three times a week and I have a rowing machine at home."

She admits that the changes have not all been easy but that results made them worthwhile.

"I feel fitter, stronger and not so tired at the end of the day," she says. "It's also definitely helped my concentration, which is vital on cross-country day.

"The key for me has been getting organised. It's very tempting when on long journeys or at events to snack on sweets and rubbish, so I now do my shopping online and stock up the lorry with healthy food like grapes and cereal bars before I go away, rather than buying rubbish at petrol stations."

Nicola Wilson, part of last month's silver medal-winning team at the eventing European Championships, also takes her own food to events to avoid the temptation of the burger van and does her best to drink enough water. But even Nicola admits that "my wonderful owners do tend to supplement this with delicious cakes..."

In the midst of a competition, the lure of the burger van can at times be overwhelming, but these riders are proving that ditching the junk is worth the investment — however time-strapped we are. **H&H**

6 WAYS TO GIVE YOURSELF A HEALTH KICK

1. Think of yourself as an athlete

Take your own nutrition and exercise as seriously as you take your horses'. After all, you are a 50:50 partnership. Riding and managing horses is tough, physical work and if you want to perform well in your discipline you need to realise your body plays a key role in making this happen.

2. Increase your water intake

Nothing is more crucial to athletic performance than water. Without sufficient water you will become dehydrated, which will affect your ability to think straight and react quickly. Always have a bottle with you to sip from at home and at a competition.

3. Eat little and often

Professional and working riders' busy lifestyles make it tempting to skip regular meals and then reach for high-fat, high-sugar pick-me-ups. To avoid peaks and troughs in your blood sugar levels and the resulting mood swings and fatigue, take a leaf out of your horse's book and try to "graze" on low-fat and low-sugar foods throughout the day.

4. Adopt an exercise routine to meet your needs

Equestrians don't need to be gym fit, they need to be riding fit. Try a few sessions with a physio or personal trainer to identify which areas of your body you need to strengthen to minimise injury and increase strength, endurance and flexibility.

5. Get some sleep

This is easy to say but tricky to do when you're facing a 3.30am start on a competition day and are juggling a full-time job with riding. That said, your mind needs to switch off and your body has to rest, recover and repair itself from the day's hard work. Aim for an average of six to eight hours per night.

6. Avoid processed foods as far as possible

The convenience factor means we're unlikely to avoid ready meals altogether, but cutting down and eating more foods as close to their natural state as possible will give you a boost.



Maria Eilberg sips on a home-made smoothie throughout the day to boost her energy levels



Burghley this year yielded a career-best result for Georgie Spence — despite riding with a broken wrist and hand. She talks to **Ellie Hughes** about making the jump to senior level, paying the bills and her sharp star, Wii Limbo

T'S a gloomy September afternoon and we're sitting round the kitchen table in Georgie Spence's parents' cosy Wiltshire farmhouse, talking about broken limbs — or more specifically, Michael Jung's recent revelation that he won Burghley and the European Championships with a fractured ankle.

"It's unbelievable; he can't be human, can he?" muses Georgie, spinning around her mug of tea in front of her.

Turns out she's a fine one to talk. She also rode round the world's biggest cross-country track sporting a considerable injury — a broken wrist and hand, sustained four weeks previously while schooling an exuberant youngster at home.

"Adrenaline's such an amazing thing, though," continues the 26-year-old former junior and young

rider multi-medallist, stretching out her almost-healed limb in front of her and turning it from side to side. "Once you leave that start box you can't feel a thing."

It was a memorable Burghley for Georgie for many reasons, not least because it yielded a career-best 12th place — despite her handicap.

"I've been round 13 four-stars now, so I feel pretty confident when I go to these competitions, but this result has been a long time coming," she says seriously.

Indeed it's been seven years since Georgie burst into the big time and became the first teenager for over a decade to take on Badminton successfully. But she has been fairly low profile in recent years compared to some of her contemporaries.

"Pippa Funnell once said that it takes nine or 10 years after leaving young riders to make a real impression at





From left to right: Georgie (Captain Future), boyfriend Toby Pigott (Sterling V) and freelance groom Brooke Gardener-Wollen (Friday Knight)



Georgie on the promising Billy Ball, an eight-year-old by Billy Congo

senior level," she says. "I can remember thinking, 'no way, of course it won't. I was 21 with a few four-stars under my belt. I thought I had it sussed, but I was wrong."

"There's so much you don't realise as a kid," Georgie continues. "I wanted eventing to be my life, but it soon became clear that if I couldn't make it pay, I wouldn't be able to do it any more."

Georgie is quick to acknowledge the huge support that her parents, Jo and Russell, gave her throughout her teenage years and when she first left the young rider ranks. Three years ago, they handed over the running — and the costs — of the yard at Lock Farm, the family home for 22 years, to their daughter. Georgie moved out of the comfortable farmhouse and into a static caravan. She started paying rent for the buildings, took on all the bills and made the big decisions.

"It was a huge step for me financially and emotionally, and I made mistakes," she admits.

But looking out of the window it's easy to see why Georgie was so keen to stay put. Nestling deep in the Wiltshire countryside, in the classic eventing territory triangle between Marlborough, Cirencester and Bath, the property is custom-made for an eventer. There are 12 Monarch boxes in covered yards, a 30x60m outdoor arena, plus access to the adjacent 250-acre farm belonging to Georgie's grandparents.

"I tend to do all my fast work on grass. If you're asking a horse to gallop across country on ground that's firm or soft, his legs need to be conditioned to it. There's little point using a pristine all-weather gallop," she reasons.

There is plenty of grazing, which enables Georgie to keep some of her horses out at night — a routine she prefers where possible.

She employs one full-time groom, Meg Johns, and two part-time helpers, plus there is the added benefit of having her boyfriend, eventer Toby Pigott, based 20 minutes down the road.

'It took a year to back him'

APART from her base, the other constant in Georgie's life has been her loyal band of owners, many of whom have been with her since her young rider days.

"I'd like to think we have a great relationship and trust," says Georgie. "A lot of them sent their home-breds

DAILY TIMETABLE

7am: Georgie arrives on the yard, feeds the horses and makes a to-do list. "I tend to make up all the feeds myself"

7.30-8am: Meg, Georgie's groom, arrives. The pair discuss the day's plan and the horses that have stayed out overnight come in. "In an ideal world I'd like all of them to live out — I think it's so much better for them"

8.30am: Georgie starts riding, or helps with chores first on a quiet day

9am: breakfast, though Georgie finds it difficult to eat during the day. "Toby is good at encouraging me — I'm getting better"

9.30am: Georgie continues with schooling, hacking, cantering or jumping. "I try to get all my riding done in the mornings"

1pm: a quick break for lunch

2pm: the afternoon is spent either riding any remaining horses, doing paperwork or teaching, which Georgie enjoys. "I get a kick out of helping people who want to get better and seeing their results improve"

5pm: if everything else is finished, Georgie mucks in with the tack cleaning and yard chores

6pm: the horses are fed and finished for the day

Access all areas



Left: an eventer's haven with 12 covered Monarch boxes. Georgie has been responsible for running her parents' first-rate equestrian facilities for the past three years

Right: Georgie relaxes with her top horse Wii Limbo. She is targeting top-10 placings at CCI4* with the Highline gelding next season



A quiet, confident run at Burghley last year, which

was followed by the same at Badminton in the

spring, was exactly what the doctor ordered.

to me to begin with. I produced them, we sold them and then they reinvested."

Georgie's current string of six horses is headed by Wii Limbo (Woody), owned by Lucy Fleming, Ben Chittle and Vanessa Jamieson. He is the first horse Georgie has produced from start to four-star.

"I was lucky enough to ride brilliant cross-country horses at the start of my career," she says, referring to Running Brook II and Birthday Night. "Both were mediocre in the other two phases, which I think was actually a blessing as it meant that I stayed under the radar. Now I have Woody, who is the whole package, I have the experience to get the best out of him."

The son of Highline, a Dutch-bred stallion with Ramiro Z and Northern Dancer on either side of his family, came from dealer Dawn Janciauskas, near Manchester.

"Mum hated him at first," smiles Georgie, recalling the moment the three-year-old stepped off the truck. "She told me she didn't like the look of him and that I should send him straight back."

It has certainly not all been plain sailing.

"He was so sharp that it took me a year to back him," she says. "But he has so much ability. Whereas Running Brook was maxed out on scope at the top — he got to where he did because of his enormous heart — if Woody gets a bit deep to a fence or if I mess up, he'll just jump higher."

The gelding made his mark at one-, two- and three-star level, but when he stepped up to four-star for the first time at Luhmühlen last year it all went horribly wrong. Georgie, who is known for her accurate, stylish riding — honed on the junior

showjumping circuit — unusually found herself on an impossible stride coming to a table fence. Woody hit the deck and she broke her collarbone.

"It really knocked my confidence," she admits. "I rang Yogi [Breisner] afterwards and said to him: 'What did I do? Why did it go wrong?' He replied: 'You just missed; you're human, get over it'.

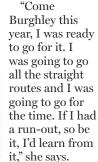
"It's so easy to overanalyse rather than just admitting to yourself that you made a mistake — and that's exactly what happened."



Above: Georgie's horses enjoy plenty of grazing on the farm: 'In an ideal world I'd like them all

Below: Georgie schools budding star Captain Future in her 30x60m outdoor arena

to live out



Her campaign started well with a personal best dressage mark (45.4).

"My aim was to

break the 45 barrier, so although I was thrilled with the test it was a little frustrating to miss my target by such a small margin," says Georgie.

This phase has not come as naturally to her as the other two and the marked improvement in recent years has not only been down to Woody, but also due to the hard graft she has put in with her trainers, Henriette Andersen and Angela Tucker.

"Dressage is all about making an impression and if you can establish yourself as a rider who rides good horses and consistently produces good tests I think the judges are more likely to be generous. I'm not quite there yet, but I'm hoping to be able to change that," she says.

Waiting in the wings — and very much benefiting from Georgie's honed skills in all three phases — are two promising eight-year-olds, Billy Ball and Diamond Cove, who will be aimed at three-star next season, plus the "very exciting" seven-year-old Captain Future, who has jumped double clear in five intermediates this year.

The season may be drawing to a close, but Georgie already has 2016 mapped out.

"Top-10 placings at Badminton and Burghley," she says without hesitation. "I'd be lying if I said the European Championships at Blair hadn't been on my radar this year, but Burghley was very much the silver lining and I'm desperate to build on that." H&H





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Image by Matthew Williams

Where are they now?

A Gold Cup winner, Badminton contender and an Olympic medallist – with Horse of the Year Show just around the corner, H&H celebrates past Foxhunter and SEIB Search For A Star champions, and finds out where they are now

Sultan V, 2009

THE grey Sultan V, by Irco Mena, was produced by West Sussexbased Bruce Menzies for five years. They triumphed in the *H&H* Foxhunter at Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) in 2009, when Sultan was seven years old.

"After Sultan won that year I think people started to have high expectations of him. It was certainly an indication of how good he was," says Bruce.

"His win made people sit up and look, and after that people would ask about him. We already knew before he won how good he was going to be – he always had the scope to go on."

The pair competed on British Nations Cup teams in 2011. However, the popular home-bred, who is owned by Old Lodge, was moved to the Saudi Arabian team ahead of London 2012. Sultan was competed there by Abdullah Al-Sharbatly and won team bronze.

Abdullah retired the 13-yearold this year due to health conditions and, much to Bruce's delight, he has been reunited with his former top partner.

"Sultan is back in work and looks really good. Hopefully he'll be back in the ring in the spring," adds Bruce. "I'm lucky – not many riders get their top horses back."

Opportunity B, 2003

THE 19-year-old Opportunity B is Helen Tredwell's "horse of a lifetime" and it was 12 years ago – in 2003 – that the pair claimed their first big win together in this prestigious class.

"I was not really expecting to win. I was just planning on enjoying it, as it was my first time in the final. It was a learning curve for us — we were both young and naïve," says Helen.

"In the jump-off most horses were having the final planks down. I went as fast as possible and we jumped clear to win. It was the first time I had really asked Opportunity B to go for it."



'His Foxhunter win made people sit up and look': Olympic bronze medallist Sultan V moves up a gear in 2009 with Bruce Menzies

The Jurius mare is now retired. She lives in Buckingham with Helen and is currently in-foal.

"She has already produced two – a yearling and a foal by Luidam. Both are chestnut mares," adds Helen.

Romanov, 2005

THE chestnut Romanov was found as a two-year-old by Philip Spivey at the Nijhof Stud in the Netherlands. Philip produced the son of Heartbreaker and competed him until he was 12, winning the *H&H* Foxhunter final in 2005.

Now 17, the stallion is still jumping at top international level with Irish rider Bertram Allen.

"I backed Romanov – he was a careful young horse and would

jump whatever you put in front of him. Winning the Foxhunter final was the making of him," says Philip.

"I didn't expect to win as there were some decent horses in the class, so it was a dream come true. He was definitely the horse that launched me on to better things. He taught me to jump the big tracks and took me to some of the best shows in the world.

"I have some of Romanov's youngstock at home now and some really nice young horses coming through by him."

Unbelievable Darco, 2002

THE well-known Unbelievable Darco was owned by the West Sussex-based Brendon Stud and was crowned H&H Foxhunter champion in 2002 under the stud's former stable jockey Joe Clee, who this summer finished best of the Brits at the European Championships in Aachen.

Known as "Freddie" at home, the striking dark bay stallion was later competed by Louise Pavitt, with whom he won the Bunn Leisure Derby tankard at Hickstead in 2008.

The son of Darco was put down in 2012 following a colic attack aged 15. Brendon Stud riders continue to compete his progeny.

"He will be forever missed but never forgotten. He was a member of the family – a real gentleman and friend to us all. We'd had him since he was a foal," said the stud's Shirley Light following his death.

Picture by www.trevor-meeks-photography.co.uk. Words by Hannah Lemie

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Fleetwater Xecutive, 2007

IT would be wrong to celebrate past SEIB Search For A Star champions without including Fleetwater Xecutive, owned and ridden by Jordan Cook. The stunning hack stood supreme in 2007, the pair's first season in the show ring together, and the way the graceful bay glides across the ground and works in perfect harmony with his rider has continued to turn heads on the open circuit.

The pair were reserve supreme at this year's Royal International, where 16-year-old "Darcy" faced a ride-off for the title and was pipped – by one point – by Jayne Ross on Time 2 Reflect. But at the British Show Horse Association National Championships (report, 24 September), Darcy was flawless and stood supreme after earning two 10s and a nine from the judges.

"Getting to HOYS back then was a dream and I was shocked to win," says Jordan. "I've had Darcy since he was a four-year-old, when he was known for his cheeky side. He was actually bought as a problem horse to be reschooled.

"Now we have a bond and he gets on with his job. Judges like him – he oozes elegance, manners and has so much presence."

Shelford Rupert, 1996

SHELFORD RUPERT was crowned the first SEIB Search For A Star supreme champion in 1996. Partnered by Emma Gibson, the impressive heavyweight hunter became a firm favourite of the judges and he went on to be successful at county level and in open classes.

Shelford Rupert competed at HOYS an impressive 12 times, and a special award was presented to him at the 2008 show, when the then 17-year-old was officially retired from the show ring.

"Rupert used to be quite a naughty horse and I had difficulty getting on him, but with perseverance he improved," says Emma of the gelding, who is part Irish draught and was bred by Roger and Jane Chatterton out of a hunter mare.

Shelford Rupert's showing CV boasts 81 championships, and 195 titles in heavyweight, ladies' and amateur classes.

Hudson Bay, 2007

THE very first time Hudson Bay stepped inside a show ring, he exited with a ticket to HOYS. That was in 2007, and the bright bay went on to top the SEIB Search For A Star working hunter class at the NEC later that year.

"It still stands out as an exceptional day. None of us knew what we were doing because we didn't do showing – we just went for a bit of fun," says Hudson's owner, Abigail Bingley, who has owned the 14-year-old gelding since he was six. "He stood like a rock in the ring and wasn't fazed by the lights or crowd at all."

Hudson was ridden by Toby Blake at HOYS, but Abigail partnered him in the hunting field and they evented at BE100 level, contesting the Badminton Grassroots Championships twice.

"He did so well at Badminton in 2013 – finishing on his dressage score and coming 15th – that I said 'that's enough' and retired him to the hunting field," adds Abigail.

"I've had a lot of fun on him out with the Beaufort and he's just moved to Beanie Sturgis' yard, where he will be hunted by Oliver Jones-Davies, so that I can concentrate on youngsters." H&H

 Horse of the Year Show takes place at Birmingham's NEC on 7-11 October. For more information, visit www.hoys.co.uk.

Nico de Boinville, 1998

THIS year's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Nico de Boinville (below) proved his ability to win while under immense pressure 17 years earlier, when partnering Barkway Black Magic in the SEIB Search For A Star championship and standing supreme.

That was when HOYS took place at Wembley, and Nico was only nine years old.

"Magic had just come off the leadrein and I remember worrying in the championship because they were asked to line up on the short side of the arena and Nico had not done that before," says his mother, Shaunagh. "Then Nico was called out first, so he didn't even get the chance to watch anyone else. But he went out and did an immaculate show."

After swapping the show ring for the racetrack, one of Nico's victories came aboard The Queen's Barbers Shop, who is now successful in the show ring with Katie Jerram.

"When Nico came for lunch a few days after Cheltenham, he agreed that experiences of dealing with pressure in the show ring enabled him to do what he did in the Gold Cup," adds Shaunagh.





Pictures by www.trevor-meeks-photography.co.uk and Bill Selwyn. Words by Aimi Clark





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Brits rally for second spot

Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Final, Barcelona, Spain

24-27 September

By Pippa Cuckson

RITAIN'S showjumpers rounded off a year that defied its earliest expectations when second to a sizzling Belgium in the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup final in Barcelona on Saturday night (26 September).

Ben Maher (Diva II), Jessica Mendoza (Spirit T), Laura Renwick (Bintang) and Joe Clee (Utamaro D'Ecaussines) finished on eight faults, the same score as the Netherlands. But they nudged ahead of the world champions when split on time.

The Brits' handiness round Santiago Varela's massive track reaped a big reward – second prize of €300,000 (£220,000).

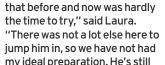
Nineteen teams lined up for the Thursday qualifier, also won by Belgium. The eight making the final cut squared up again on Saturday, this time under floodlights, where Belgium again looked formidable from the off. Gregory Wathelet and Conrad De Hus, last of all to go, sealed victory, also landing himself a €200,000 bonus with the competition's sole double clear.

Belgium has no Rio ticket, eliciting much sympathy (news, p6). Meanwhile, Britain accomplished its second major achievement of 2015 with a Scott Brash-less side. Michael Whitaker's below-par round with Cassionato – three fences down towards the end, for the discard score – on Thursday, saw him replaced by Laura Renwick on Saturday. This left Joe Clee as anchorman.

Diva started Britain off with a solid four faults, unlucky to lower a rail at six. "My job was to get the team going. I think she's jumped one of her best rounds," said Ben. "She was a little bit anxious after the water, fence four, and took me a little close.

"She is still an inexperienced horse, though I keep saying that when she is in fact getting better and better."





Anchorman Joe Clee and Utamaro D'Ecaussines - 'There was an amazing team spirit,' he says

my ideal preparation. He's still quite young and it's one of those things you have to take away and learn from."



BRITAIN qualified comfortably for the final eight, another dramatic class in which European Championship form was turned upside down.

France returned a dismal 24 faults for 16th place and, save for Jeroen Dubbeldam's clear on SFN Zenith NOP, the Netherlands looked lacklustre on 10 faults. The Dutch rallied on Saturday, when it was Zenith, unusually, who bombed for 12 faults, breaking into a trot before the double.

Only seven horses jumped clear on Thursday, although Diva II came close with a single time-fault. Ben had jumped just a single round with the mare since Aachen, to readjust to sand.

Spirit Tripped off a shoe after the oxer at four and was unlucky to lower the back rail at eight,

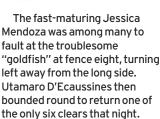


which came up short after the water.

Joe was jumping cleanly until fence 11, but swiftly regrouped and was among the most stylish through the trappy combination at 12, where 33 horses had

problems. By the end of Thursday's marathon the sun was going down.

"It was throwing long shadows," said Joe. "Though that is not what went wrong in my round. I let him slip to the inside



Jessica was delighted to provide a counting score.

"In Aachen I was a bit off for the first few days, I wasn't attacking and pushing for every stride. I came away from that a lot stronger," she said. "A clear round would have been amazing, but I could not have asked the mare for any more."

Laura was burdened with 16 faults when, on the run to the water, Bintang juddered to a halt and reared three times.

"He hasn't done anything like





Triumphant: the Belgian team enjoy their lap of honour having skilfully negotiated Santiago Varela's massive track



Jessica Mendoza and Spirit T: 'I could not have asked the mare for any more'

a bit, as I was thinking too far ahead to the combination."

Britain had been drawn eighth and, after their last-to-go Michael Whitaker's unexpected discard with Cassionato, were teetering between eighth and ninth. There was a tense wait for the 11 remaining riders, as main rivals crashed out and Britain moved comfortably up the leaderboard.

Brazil was leading after the third rotation, but their last man Rodrigo Pessoa left the arena, visibly stunned, after five fences down with Status.

Americans 'under pressure' THE US team were thrilled to make the final eight.

"We have won the consolation competition both times, so naturally were putting ourselves under pressure to maintain this record," quipped Laura Kraut.

The Americans finished fourth, best of the three 12-faulters. Ireland was fifth, thanks to Cian



Gerco Schröder and Glock's Cognac Champblanc jump for the Netherlands

O'Connor's clear and uneventful trip on Good Luck. Germany dropped from potential second to sixth when Ludger Beerbaum (Chiara) clipped a plank going into the double at 11a, and then took out the oxer at 12.

TALKING POINTS Multiple tie provokes medal shortage

THERE was a long wait for the Longines Challenge Cup's prizegiving ceremony, for there were no suitable mementos for the three teams (France, Brazil and Australia) tied for second behind Qatar.

Furusiyya gives medals, but had not, obviously, struck three sets of silver.

Rules for this consolation event, which involves the 11 teams not through to Saturday, had never anticipated a multiple tie. There is no provision to jump-off or separate nations by combined times, as was applied to Britain's advantage on Saturday.

FEI jumping director John Roche said: "If this was a championship, the teams would have jumped off, but these are not FEI medals, they are something Furusiyya has given."

Qatar won on nine faults and its riders thanked Allah and their trainer, Olympian Jan Tops, for their victory.

Their most experienced rider, Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid Al Thani, jumping first for 19 faults, had to retake the combination after a rare refusal from Vienna Olympic.

"I put my team in a bad position but they were never going to give up the fight," he said.

What's in a name?

IT was no surprise that the first clear of Saturday night was recorded by Germany's second rider, Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum on the huge-jumping grey, Fibonacci — Meredith organises him between each fence then sits tight and slightly defensively as he balloons over every fence.

"It's great to have another really good one," said Meredith, who won three World Cup finals with the legendary Shutterfly. "They don't come along that often."

She named him after the medieval mathematician who invented a famous numerical chain.

"The 'Fibonacci sequence' has relevance for many things, including nature, which I liked," she said. "Though we also had to find something starting with F, and you'd be surprised how little there is."

Summarising the British season, Joe said: "We can only get stronger. A few horses that were injured look like they are coming back, and their being out of action has allowed others to come through. Look at Diva, she's turning into a superstar.

"Di Lampard has really pulled the team together. She is motherly in some ways. There is an amazing team spirit, with everyone fighting for the same goal." H&H

Joe Clee interview, p22

RESULTS

Thurs 25: Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup 1st rnd.—1, Belgium (O Philippaerts, J Melchior, J Lansink, G Wathelet); 2eq, Germany (C Ahlmann, M Michaels-Beerbaum, D Deusser, L Beerbaum); 2eq, Sweden (M Baryard-Johnsson, A Von Essen, R Bengtsson, H Von Eckermann; 4, Great Britain (B Maher, J Mendoza, J Clee, M Whitaker). Fri 25: Longines Challenge Cup.—1, Oatar; 2eq, France; 2eq, Australia; 2eq, Brazil. Sat 26: Queen's Cup Segura Viudas Trophy.—1, Ad Nouvelle Europe Z (D De Miranda) BRA; 2, First Class van Eeckelghem (D Deusser) GER; 3, Gotha Frh (H Von Eckermann). Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Jumping Final.—1, Belgium (O Philippaerts, J Melchior, J Lansink, G Wathelet); 2, Great Britain (B Maher, J Mendoza, L Renwick, J Clee); 3, Netherlands (J Dubbeldam, M Van Der Vleuten, J Vrieling, G Schröder). Sun 27: Longines Cup of the City of Barcelona.—1, All Star (D Lynch) IRI; 2, Johnny Boy (S Lambre) MEX; 3, Cento Lano (O Zvara) CZE.

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Arena UK Major Showjumping Championships, Lincs

21-27 September

By Suzanne Jones

near-impossible inside turn that left spectators gasping earned Ireland's Dermott Lennon and Loughview Lou-Lou £20,000 in the richest national grand prix on the circuit.

"She's especially good turning left, we met the first fence right and it set her up to turn," said Dermott, one of only eight clears from 64 starters.

"The course-builder got it right, technical with big verticals that took a lot of jumping," said former world champion Dermott, who won by an incredible six seconds.

Anthony Condon on John Hales' classy nine-year-old Arko son Aristio took second with the only other clear. Last year's winner Robert Bevis hit the final planks on Courtney Z for third.

This is the fourth year Dermott has ridden Lou-Lou, but it wasn't always plain sailing.

"She's definitely not easy; she can be temperamental and boisterous, but I know her so well I can tune her in," he said.



Speed derby winners Steven Whitaker and Avant Royal Rose II, 17, who 'loves shows'

Steven Whitaker headed the speed derby on the 17-year-old stallion Avant Royal Rose II.

"We're two oldies together," said Steven. "He's at the end of his career but he's reliable and loves coming to shows, so we keep bringing him."

New partnership soars high DAVID MURDOCH jumped 2.05m over the puissance wall on new

ride Senor D.

Joint-owner Paddy Sweeney found this VDL Douglas 10-year-old with his brother Bob, who had owned the horse for just 24 hours after buying him from breeder Gareth Clingon.

"He arrived three days before we travelled here," said David, who rides the 18.2hh gentle giant in a rubber Pelham.

The six-bar also reached a whopping 2m with David Simpson on the Cicero nine-year-old Gotti Van Paemel sharing with equalling Douglas Duffin's 10-year-old Quidam BZ.

British-based Irishman Derek McCoppin took the top score with his consistent, home-produced 10-year-old Whiterock Lucky Lady (by VDL Douglas), bought seven years ago.

"She's quick, balanced and

careful," said Derek, who runs a competition and dealing yard 15 minutes from Hickstead.

Derek featured in another victory when girlfriend Alice Palmer claimed the midway title on his Lux six-vear-old Luxxella.

"I jumped her at Wales and West in the summer and this is only our second show, but she's so easy," said Alice.

Not to be outdone, Alice's sister Emily clinched the 95cm title on Talgo De Leuze.

"I'm a proper amateur, I work in London all week and only ride at weekends," said Emily, 27, an accountant with Ernst & Young, who bought the 12-year-old Talgo five years ago.

"He was a nutter, napping every time he went in the ring. I persevered because no-one else wanted him, but now he's the perfect amateur horse — low-maintenance and only lunged twice a week at home."

Robert Whitaker doubled up with two of Brendon Stud's stallions, Noble Warrior and Fabrice Van Overis.

The home-bred Noble Warrior landed the six-year-old, just like his sire Warrior did six years ago when he was ridden by Louise

Pavitt. Warrior went on to be Azerbaijani Jamal Rahimov's Olympic 2012 ride.

"He is good-natured with plenty of scope and rideability," said Robert.

"He's a clone of his dad," said Shirley Light of Brendon Stud.

Shirley originally bought the Casantos x Ladykiller dam as a two-year-old but later sold her – before buying her back; Noble Warrior's full sister was born this year.

Fabrice Van Overis, who will contend the HOYS Foxhunter and talent seekers, took the venture title.

"He's fast but quiet for a stallion and he has a good mind for the job," said Robert of the For Pleasure x Diamant De Semilly seven-year-old.

Another of Brendon Stud's Warrior offspring won the fiveyear-olds: Native Warrior piloted by Laura Mantel.

The second-generation-bred mare, out of a Maestro Nativio dam, joined Laura in August.

"She has a big jump and answered every question today; her grandmother, Rum Baba, jumped the Hickstead Derby with Jane Cobb," said owner Shirley, who now has the mare back home for a winter break.

Joe Clayton claimed the star of the future on Steve and Caroline Barnes' Millioninmind, a VDL Douglas x Glidawn Diamond gelding bought out of a field unbroken five years ago.

"All he wants to do is jump clear rounds, he's the best I've ridden," said Caroline, who produced the eight-year-old until handing him over to Joe two years ago.

Chloe Winchester took the 1.25m with breathtaking turns on Ed Howard's Zandokan H.



1.25m winner Chloe Winchester's Zandokan Henjoys a break from 1.40m classes

"I can rely on him, he's so careful and revels in galloping," said Chloe, who also headed young riders and 1.25m prelims. "He's been jumping 1.40m classes so this was easy."

Blazer to the fore

ANNA EDWARDS secured the Trevor Burrows memorial 1.30m on Blazer B.

"This is so unexpected, there were some fast, experienced horses in the jump-off; he's getting quicker," said Anna, who will imminently travel to shows in France and Spain to "prolong the summer".

Jake Saywell netted the Horse First young rider grand prix with Special K IV.

"He's quick, careful and versatile, he jumps area trials, speeds or accumulators and copes easily with bigger tracks," said Jake.

"He has taken a back seat while I concentrated on the young rider Europeans with Grand Cru, and now he's ready to move up."

Tony Pearson lifted the 1.20m amateur grand prix on Tracey Cottrell's ultra-consistent Arash, a Rash R x Quick Star 10-year-old bought from Brendon Stud.

"He's super-brave and careful and wants to win as much as I do," said Tony. Katie Shaw took the 1.15m grand prix with her sister Emma's Fools Business.

"This is a great warm-up for HOYS," said silver league contender Katie.

Kent-based Vicky Cooper netted the Jade Wilson Ayres memorial 1.10m with seasoned partner Mieke II, a Lancer II 15-year-old bought 11 years ago.

"She was not an easy horse at first, but she's quick and consistent now," said Vicky, who works as a courier. "It fits in well, I finish early and ride in the afternoon."

Rachael Connor took the

Z, a Balou Du Rouet x Burggraaf four-year-old. "She's my pet," said Heidi,

"She's my pet," said Heidi, who produced Billy Twomey's former five star International ride Goldex.

graduate grand prix on Hinde, a

Veni Vidi Vici V eight-year-old

bought three months ago. "She's so careful; the more I

ride forward, the bigger she jumps," said Rachael.

Heidi Luck claimed the apprentice grand prix on Britt MK

"I retired from showjumping a couple of years ago but my partner Martin said I was driving him mental and could I get another horse, so I accompanied Tommy Williams on a trip to Belgium."

Irish visitor Madeleine Allen topped the 1.05m on Zikro, a Dutch-bred 11-year-old she sold to Alex Moorhouse in August.

"I'm stopping with the Moorhouses and borrowed Zikro off Alex, it's great to have the ride back, even if it's only for a week," said Cork-based Madeleine. H&H

star of the future gual 1.- 1. Dakar AS (L Wade):

RESULTS

Major gp. – 1, Loughview Lou-Lou (D Lennon); 2, Aristio (A Condon); 3, Courtney 6 (R Bevis). top score. – 1, Whiterock Lucky Lady (D McCoppin); 2, Wilandri E (A Elliott); 3, Le Beau HE (A Marinos Soto). **6-bar.**–1eq, Quidam BZ (D Duffin) & Gotti Van Paemel (D Simpson); 3, Ilton (R Smith). **spee**d derby.- 1, Avant Royal Rose II (S Whitaker): 2. Satonamillion (Z Adams); 3, Abrisco (J Halim). puissance.—1, Senor D (D Murdoch); 2, Cannavaro (M Fursedonn); 3, Le Beau HE (A Marinos Soto). **star of the future gp.**–1, Millioninmind (J Clayton); 2, Quainton Layla (M Lanni); 3, Darien II (N Barry), Trevor Burrows memorial 1.30m. gp.– 1, Blazer B (A Edwards); 2, Bart (J Halim); 3, Dassler (L Saywell). **1.25m gp.**– 1, Zandokan H (C Winchester); 2, Zegreanne Z (K Shore); 3, Avant Royal Rose II. venture gp.—1, Fabrice Van Overis (R Whitaker); 2, Alegro Z (M Huntington); 3, Codean (L Saywell). Horse First yr gp.—1, Special K IV (J Saywell); 2, Newbridges Mast Brown (C Bastone); 3, Witch (E Ward). **95cm** ap.- 1. Talgo De Leuze (E Palmer): 2. Sabina's Skylark (L May); 3, Calvaretta Z (K Smith). **1.05m gp.**– 1, Zikro (M Allen); 2, Daisy VII (P Tryhane); 3, Fe Mi Amor (C White). midway gp.- 1, Luxxella (A Palmer); 2, Zilanto (H Rushton); 3, Ufonzo (S Garrod), Cats & Pipes 1.15m gp.- 1, Fools Business (K Shaw); 2, Vero (K Rose); 3, Caretino Honey (O Painter). Jade Wilson Ayres memor trophy 1.10m gp.– 1, Mieke II (V Cooper); 2, Eveline Van Het Keizershof (C McCaugherty); 3, Rowena II (C Purves). apprentice gp.-1, Britt MK Z (H Luck); 2, B (A Lee); 3, Harietta Little Bit (B Willis). graduate gp.-1, Hinde (R Connor); 2, Landown Illusion (H Hammond): 3. Shannondale Ensign (C Winchester). amat 1.20m gp.-(T Pearson); 2, Kirsch (M Garry); 3, Vero. WH Management Group 6yo gp.—1, Noble Warrior (R Whitaker); 2, Caruso Deres Z (T Priest); 3, Escapado S (J Saywell). Gelston Haylage 5yo gp.—1, Native Warrior (L Mantel); 2, Ferrari III (M Fursedonn); 3, Zellanos Rubin UHS (A Shields). **4yo gp.**–1 eq, 18 tied. **coh.**–1, Eyecatcher II (H 4yo gp.—1 eq. 18 tied. coh.—1, Eyecatcher II (H Hughes); 2, Bruce Almighty (W Fletcher); 3, Cherryfras De Rialflo Z (J Whitaker). supporting classes: major gp qual 1.—1, Corlando Of Cavallini (C Glasgow); 2, HHS Flo (J Clayton); 3, Ayrton IV (J Andrews). qual Z.—1, Calaero (D Wise); 2, Unique VIII (K Shore); 3, Diaghilev (B Twomey). Trevor Burrows memorial 1.30m qual 1.—1, Caristo VDL. (T Priest); 2, Shearwater Upanda (J Whitaker); 3, Topflight True Carlo (J Thompson). qual Z.—1, Dolanda (M Sampson); 2, Calaero; 3, Eabrica Van Overis 1.25 pg. qual 1.—1, 2ngdokan Fabrice Van Overis, 1.25m qual 1.—1, Zandokan H; 2, Red Haired Mary (L Mantel); 3, Lovarno (S Whitaker). qual 2.—1, Wendela N (L Humphrey); 2, Rubiroso JX (K Shore); 3, Gulliver VII (R Howley).

2, TJM Henry De Reve (C Dawson); 3, Lincourt Cruise (S Crippen). **Horse First yr qual 1.**–1, Zandokan H; 2, Caramba (C Skelton); 3, Chento D (C Geddes). **qual 2.**–1 & 2, Caramba & Millfied Baloney (C Skelton); 3, Hemmingway (J Crosby). H&H Foxhunter/venture qual 1.- 1, Alegro Z; 2 Zinedine IV (C Reynolds); 3, Keeford Carousel (D Irvine). **qual 2.**–1, Fe Mi Amor; 2, Codean; 3, Harry X (L Sisson). Connolly's Red Mills newcomers/ midway qual 1.–1, Van Persie II (R Connor); 2, Machia (M Thompson); 3, Zilanto (H Rushton). gual 2.- 1. Van Persie: 2. Zilanto: 3. Daisy VII. Nupafeed Supplements discovery/graduate qual 1.- 1, Hinde; 2, Thunder Royale (O Painter); 3. Bellissima V (H Hammond), qual 2.- 1. Billy On Edge (J Baxter); 2, Hinde; 3, Diamond Chip (A Moorhouse). KBIS British nov/apprentice qual 1.– 1, Robe Kilshanagh (S Dickenson); 2, Ballybane Tulira (L Gilsenan); 3, Elena E (E Elliott). **qual** 2.- 1. Billy Bo Jangles (H Stevens); 2. Ballybane Tulira; 3, Zydeny A Appachu). Cats & Pipes 1.15m qual 1.– 1, Fools Business; 2, Arash; 3, Vero. qual 2.– 1, Wonder Z (L Whitfield); 2, The Maharanee (T Payne); 3, Dhuma Varna (J Mitchell). Jade Wilson Ayres memorial trophy 1.10m qual 1.– 1, Rowena II; 2, Caretino Honey; 3, Umpire (D Foster). qual 2.-1, Gin (A Stonehouse): 2. Winnert (J Powell); 3, Harlequin Joe (J Whibley).amateur 1.20m qual 1.– 1, Arash; 2, Fools Business; 3, Mieke II. qual 2.–1, Fools Business; 2, Gin; 3, Sir Henry (O Skinner). 95cm restricted qual 1.–1 & 2. Lapaloma & Ocean Breeze II (S Cornev): 3. Riverside Glen (T Pearson). qual 2.- 1, Riverside Glen; 2, Ruby St Loise (K Benbow); 3, Sabina's Skylark, qual 3.-1. Ballinamura Omeara (G Royle); 2, Chat Balou (S Baker); 3, Meacham Fatal Attraction (C Chambers). **1.05m qual.**– 1, Cyloma Z (K Shaw); 2, Lapaloma; 3, Daisy VII. qual 2.-1, Findas Keepas V (H Mathea); 2, Ursula IV (C Heydon); 3, Qui Qui (L Gilsenan). qual 3.–1&3, Billy Condretti & Billy On Edge (J Baxter); 2, Chat Balou. WH Management Group 6yo qual 1.—1eq, 46 tied. qual 2.—1eq, 25 tied. Gelston Haylage 5yo qual 2.—1eq, 60 tied. qual 2.—1eq, 37 tied. **4yo qual 1.**–1 eq, 22 tied. **qual 2.**–1 eq, 15 tied. **85cm.**–1, Zolushka (H White); 2, Coromandel (M Poskitt); 3, Thyphoon (S Watson). 1.05m.– 1, Walty L (S Cuthbert); 2, Lottie (R Connor); 3, Little Chantennay (M Poskitt). **D&H 85cm amat** 2nd rnd.- 1. Christopher Robin IV (A Jackson): 2, Oakleys Ace (G Dickens); 3, Coromandel. **D&H 1.05m amat 2nd rnd.**–1, Zula Maeva (L Frisby); 2, Luidams Girl (H Wybergh); 3, Quids In II (A Mills). 1.05m.– 1, Belregazo (F Jervis); 2, Kilmanahan Diamond (M Poskitt); 3, Rich Boy II (A Nicpon). D&H 1.10m amat 2nd rnd.- 1. Zula Maeva: 2 Apeldoorn P (M Thompson); 3, Annie X (R Hart).



Young rider grand prix winners Jake Saywell and Special K IV, a 10-year-old by Kannan

∇ Picture by Alix Williams Photography

Student makes the grade

Veteran horses and jockeys show they've still got what it takes, a tale of triumph over tribulation, and young horses shine. **Stephanie Bateman** reports

INDING time to eat and sleep is low on the priorities of student Rebecca Leech, who successfully juggles studying with working and competing.

She took the Dodson & Horrell second round 95cm at Dean Valley EC, Stockport (20 September), riding Janette Davidson's 18-year-old mare Seskins Popper.

Rebecca has been riding the mare for two years.

"My uncle was poorly and Jan used to care for him through her job," explained Rebecca. "My aunt has photos on the walls of me riding and Jan mentioned to her that she needed help with hacking out, so my aunt put me in touch with her, and the rest is history."

Jan evented the Irish sport horse at novice level before Rebecca took on the ride.

"She was 16 when I started riding her and wasn't really supple enough for the eventing dressage, so we thought we'd stick to showjumping," Rebecca said. "The first unaffiliated class we did, she won, beating 30 horses, and it just went from there. She knows her job and is amazing for



 $Rebecca\,Leech\,and\,the\,18-year-old\,Irish\,sport\,horse\,Seskins\,Popper\,win\,the\,second\,round\,95cm\,at\,Dean\,Valley\,EC\,Argonal Contractions and the Second Contraction of the Second$

her age – the way she goes around the ring, you wouldn't believe how old she was."

Rebecca is studying for a degree in mental health at Keel University while working as a health care support worker. "I'm pushed for time with studying and working, but I have a lot of support.

"Jan keeps her fit and I ride when I can in the week, then compete at weekends – Ian Lovatt, Jan's partner, helps a lot and drives us to the shows.

"As soon as I'm away from uni, I'm straight down to the yard and sometimes I'm riding at 6am." Despite the mare's age, there are no plans to retire her in immediate future.

"Because she is 18, if she hadn't done as well this weekend, we were going to call it quits and put her in-foal, but because of how well she did do, we'll keep her going for as long as she wants to. She's certainly up for it at the moment."

IN THE GENES Mossrose Triumphant

FREELANCE rider and eventer Ffion Thomas enjoyed a successful outing to West Wilts EC, Wilts (17 September), winning two classes and earning runner-up spot with two home-bred horses.

Six-year-old mare Goldun Puzzle won the 1.05m and 1.10m, while her dam, 10-year-old Justin Lucky Gold was second in the Foxhunter.

"I showjump to practise for eventing, but also to win some money — which makes a nice change from eventing," said Ffion. "I event Justin Lucky Gold to advanced level and Goldun Puzzle is currently at novice level."

All of Ffion's horses have the same stallion in their breeding — a

dun American morgan horse called Mossrose Triumphant.

"He is Justin Lucky Gold's sire, so he's Goldun Puzzle's grandsire and both are dun like him," said Ffion. "They go everywhere together because there's only a level difference between them."

The stallion belongs to Rosita Hamar of Hamar stud in Shropshire.

"We sent one of our mares to Rosita to use for breeding and when she died, my parents bought her last three offspring and Justin Lucky Gold was the last one. I didn't have much time for her as a young horse, so we put her in foal, which produced Goldun Puzzle.

"They are both stunning little horses and so talented, which is why we are trying to keep the bloodlines going — we want more like them."

Double whammy for Coleman

JODIE COLEMAN rode two horses to victory at Kingswood EC, Staffs (19-20 September), winning the 90cm with Ursa and the 1.05m with Latifah.

Ursa, a 14-year-old mare by Metall, was sold by Jodie five years ago, but returned a year ago after her owner went off to university.

"She's a little amateur horse and is quite careful," said instructor Jodie who has run Fairfield Stables, a riding school in Staffordshire, for 15 years.

Her other ride, Latifah, is 17.

"She's my top horse and jumps the bigger tracks. She isn't showing signs of slowing down at all." Jodie added.

Both horses qualified for the bronze finals and were placed in the grand prix at Weston Lawns the week before.

"There were quite a few sharp turns in the courses at Kingswood, but they are both quite speedy against the clock. Ursa is only 15.2hh and her limit is 1.05m, but she is too sharp to go in the riding school, so I get to compete her."



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ONE TO WATCH

Cretheus R

YOUNG horse producer, Lucy Struthers, took the British novice at Houghton Hall EC, Norwich (17 September), riding the promising four-year-old stallion by Mermus R, Cretheus R.

She also took runner-up spot in the 1.30m with 10-year-old Portlaoise Errigal Cat by Errigal Flight.

"Cretheus R – or 'Nemo' – is seriously talented and potentially better than my current top horse Ascon Z," said Lucy. "His technique is simply stunning and I'd like to produce him and get him ready for five-year-old classes next year."

The good ones are often the trickiest, Lucy adds.

"Nemo was one of the hardest to back," she said. "I'd qualified Ascon Z for Horse of the Year Show [HOYS] and Nemo put me on the floor, meaning my physio had just six weeks to put me back together. I was on crutches because I damaged my knee, but he's turned out to be really worth it. I'm going to get him graded and we'll keep him entire as he's not stallion-like at all."

After working for Penny Cornish and Phillip Miller, Lucy decided to set up on her own, producing young horses.

"I buy three-year-olds and produce them until they are at a grade where a professional will take them on," she said. "I do them from scratch so it's nice to see them doing well after all the hard work you've put in."





AGAINST THE ODDS 'I'm lucky to be here at all'

SAM GARRY and her 11-year-old mare Sumas Haunting (pictured above) have both endured their share of injury and illness, but despite everything, are still out and winning, having triumphed in the 1.10m at Crofton Manor EC, Hants (16 September).

Sam, who runs a livery yard near Chichester, used to event, but broke her neck when a horse kicked her in the face 11 years ago.

"I broke my C1 vertebra so I'm lucky to be here at all," said Sam. "I had to wear a brace and couldn't lie down for nine-anda-half weeks. I have three titanium plates in my cheek and a rather big scar across my face."

It's not only the rider. "Suma" suffered badly from sarcoids. "She had treatment on a sarcoid on her chest at the end of last year, and had to have six months off," Sam said. "It was

horrendous. When she first came to me it was the size of a marble and grew as big as a golf ball. They put a band around it and she also had treatment with Liverpool cream, which killed it down to the roots and left a crater the size of my hand, an inch-and-a-half deep," added Sam. "Considering she is a little snapdragon in the stable, she put up with all the treatment — the vet was very impressed with her. And although we took it slowly to start with because it was near her girth, she's fine now."

Sam bought the mare by VDL Douglas two years ago from Holland where she had been used as a broodmare.

"She was tricky when I bought her and no one could get on with her," added Sam. "She's now out of Foxhunter and won the novice championships at Hickstead in the main ring last September. She is a very spooky horse, but we've developed a good relationship and she fully trusts me now — she'll jump anything for me."

Age is just a number

RETURNING to showjumping after a six-year break has made 60-year-old Theresa Anderson more determined than ever.

She and her 10-year-old mare Kashmir VS won the Dodson & Horrell 1.05m second round at Summerhouse EC, Glos (19 September).

Theresa, who runs a livery yard in Hereford, bought the mare by Kashmir Van't Schuttershof from Holland two years ago.

"I asked them to send me an 'old person's' horse to take me round, and fair play to them, that's what she does," said Theresa, who will also compete in the veteran classes at Aintree.

"I used to showjump to a high standard, then had six years off because I thought I was getting too old, but then I decided to get another horse and am really keen again."

The pair have also qualified for the Dodson & Horrell 1.10m.

"I like to qualify for things because it gives you something to aim at, but I try not to take it too seriously," she said. "My daughter Cerys Evans joins me at shows with her horse and my sister Debbie Western acts as our groom." H&H



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Rolex Central Park Horse Show, New York, USA 23-27 September

By Nancy Jaffer

HINGS did not go as expected in New York's Central Park, where the \$121,000 (£79,000) Rolex open grand prix could have pitted two of the top American riders, Kent Farrington and McLain Ward, against each other in a blistering jump-off with Ireland's Conor Swail. But it never happened, with Colombia's Daniel Bluman and Conconcreto Believe taking the honours.

"She's a horse that from the beginning has been a little bit difficult to ride – she has a lot of her own personality, but unbelievable quality and a heart that doesn't fit her chest," Daniel said of KWPN mare.

The grand prix was the conclusion of a disruptive yet happy day in the city, with Pope

Francis coming through the park in a procession that drew 80,000 people. He was so close to the riders' warm-up area that many of them were thrilled to glimpse him in his Popemobile.

The show, now in its second year, was held against a breathtaking backdrop of skyscrapers and is popular with riders and spectators alike for its unique setting. Conor set off to a good start with victory in the opening class on Simba De La Roque, replicating his win from the show's 2014 debut. The \$40,000 speed class, presented by Canadian Pacific, put the Irish rider in line for the show's leading rider title and a \$25,000 bonus.

But the testing grand prix route set in the teardrop-shaped Wollman Rink, designed by Guilherme Jorge of Brazil, the 2016 Olympic course-designer, upset some of the biggest names in the 26-horse field.

McLain had a surprising refusal

on Rothchild, his Pan American Games gold medal-winning ride. His second attempt was a halfhearted mini-leap at a vertical that left poles on the ground as he was eliminated.

Kent dropped a rail at the oxer that was the third element of a triple combination, an unexpected error with one of his most experienced mounts, Uceko.

Conor suffered real heartbreak, putting in all the elements of a clean round only to have Simba hit the final fence, the 1.5m Rolex vertical, with his front hooves and send the top rail downward.

Meanwhile, the tight 82sec allowed for the first round caught Ireland's Shane Sweetnam, who completed free of jumping faults but with one penalty on the clock aboard Chaqui. He eventually finished third, ahead of Candace King with Kismet, who had the same score but was slower.

The enthusiastic crowd instead

witnessed a jump-off between Kiwi Sharn Wordley on the Baloubet Du Rouet Westfalian gelding Barnetta, and Daniel aboard the speedy Ukato-sired Conconcreto Believe.

Sharn knew his horse wasn't as speedy as Daniel's. He made the right cuts and finished clear in a respectable 43.35sec, hoping that his rival might make

But Daniel had the edge with Believe. The mare is well-suited to indoor competitions, so the tight confines of the outdoor arena meant she had an advantage. She took it in 41.39sec to win her rider his first Rolex watch.

Daniel, who also won the \$25,000 rider bonus, added of Believe: "She really wants to perform. To have the chance to win a grand prix of such prestige definitely is the biggest accom plishment of her career, and one of the greatest of my career as well." H&H

COMMENT

Graham Fletcher



Let's see our young riders

HE format for Saturday's FEI Nations Cup final in Barcelona was spot-on. Even though Spain hadn't qualified for the final eight, the packed stands were testament to it making riveting viewing.

Full marks to Belgium for winning, but the Brits' second was a great achievement.

Ben Maher's superlative skills have honed Diva II from a hugely talented but sometimes tricky mare into a true championship horse. Jessica Mendoza rode with a class and maturity belying her age of 19.

After a disappointing 16 faults from Laura Renwick, the pressure was heaped on Joe Clee, who responded brilliantly with a clear. Joe also cemented his position as a genuine contender for Rio 2016.

What does HOYS offer?

YOUNG British medallists from this season's European Championships for childrenon-horses, juniors and young riders have been invited to Horse of the Year Show's (HOYS) Sunday evening performance to parade.

We decided the experience for our 12-year-old son Ollie, of riding into the main arena, reliving his team silver medal and watching top riders in the grand prix, was well worth it.

I daren't think how long it is since I won the young riders at HOYS. But this year is definitely the first since then that there has been no young riders' class of any description at the show.

Yet, just look at some of our young riders' results this season. Chloe Winchester won the Queen's Cup at Hickstead and so nearly collected a European medal when she was fourth. Millie Allen, who added European bronze to her stack of other medals, is another we need to promote.

Harry Charles was also invited to parade, as the winner of a silver medal in the juniors. But his father Peter declined.

"No thank you," Peter wrote in an email to the HOYS' organisers. "We don't need the experience of a parade. And I find it appalling for all the young talent in this country that one of the very few chances to compete at one of our better shows has just been taken away. Looking down your list of invited international riders, I see it's a really good list of no-hopers, while some of our medallists can't even get a look-in except to parade."

Ollie will still parade at HOYS. But Peter has a very solid point because, surely, it's in our sport's best interest to encourage youth.

Encourage new talent

HOYS will probably cite insufficient time to run young riders' classes in its hectic schedule.

They've done well to put on three rankings classes. There are also four £1,000-to-the winner classes for which the prize-money has stood still for many years, prompting some competitors to use them as schooling classes.

Why not reallocate a couple of these classes to young riders who would grasp the chance to compete? The paying public comes to HOYS to see the best horses and riders in exciting competitions. So don't tell me they'd rather watch schooling rounds, or foreigners they've never heard of, than some up-and-coming talent giving it their best shot.

Peter's voting with his feet out of sheer frustration. But we all want HOYS to be successful.

Hopefully the organisers can be persuaded to put measures in place for 2016. Because it's a disgrace that youth development is being neglected at a time when it's needed more than ever. H&H

NEXT WEEK: William Funnell



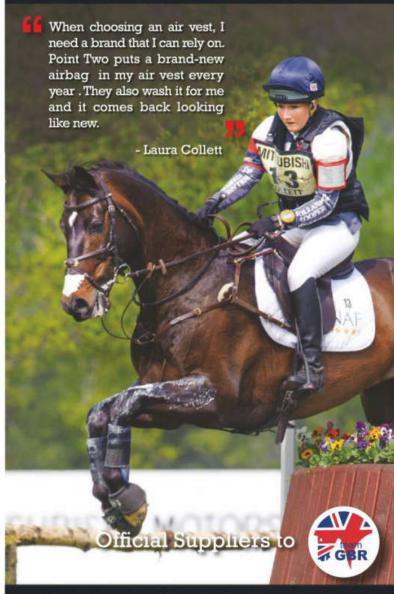
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Washington narrowly foiled in golden bid

FEI World Breeding Jumping Championships, Lanaken, Belgium

17 20 September

By Penny Richardson

AURA RENWICK came within a hair's breadth of a gold medal at showjumping's World Breeding Jumping Championships when she rode MHS Washington into second in a close seven-year-old final.

Although Laura was among a large British contingent that travelled to Belgium, she jumped for Ireland on this occasion. At this show, horses represent their World Breeding Federation studbook and because Washington is an Irish sport horse by OBOS Quality out of a Cavalier Royale mare, Laura was part of the Irish team.

"I've enjoyed being 'Irish'," she laughed. "Although Washington won our national championship at Addington, British Showjumping didn't select me because she's not British-bred. I had to wait for the Irish Federation to invite me and I'm so glad they did."

As the seven-year-old final offered world ranking points, Eugene Mathy's 1.45m course was extremely tough. Laura produced a brilliant jump-off round on Washington, but Belgian world number 10 Gregory Wathelet and the Polish-bred stallion MJT Nevados S (Calvados Z x Romualdo) inched ahead by just 0.16 seconds.

Irishman Eoin McMahon was third on another Irish sport horse, Talks Cheap (Tinaranas Inspector x Colin Diamond), a mare bought at Goresbridge sales in 2014.

Laura was also runner-up in this final in 2006 on the former Horse & Hound Foxhunter champion Limelight De Breve. She originally owned Washington (bred by Ita Brennan in Kilkenny) with Irish rider Denis Lynch, but has since bought his share.

"I'm kicking myself. I didn't have the approach I wanted to the second-last fence and had to take



Laura Renwick and the Irish-bred MHS Washington jump a 1.45m track to bag silver

an extra stride to the last, but Washington's a top horse of the future. No doubt," she said.

Britain's James Billington, now settled in the Netherlands as rider for the VDL Stud, was fourth in the seven-year-old final on Davidson and took bronze with VDL Cartello in the FEI Zangersheide sires of the world grand prix.

"He's a strong character and he jumps better over bigger tracks," he assessed of Cartello, by Cartani.

The best performance by a British-bred horse in this class was fifth place for Joe Clayton on Simon Davies' home-bred nine-year-old Velini (Cheers Cassini x Kigali), whose seven-year-old full-brother Flawless also jumped here with Helen Tredwell.

Brits to the fore

LAURA MANTEL – and British breeding – had a moment in the spotlight when New Priory Stud's home-bred NPS Andre (Nederland F x Animo) left 272 rivals in his wake in the opening day's six-year-old qualifier.

"I never expected to come anywhere, let alone win, but what a show I had," said Laura, who reached the five-year-old final with the KWPN-bred Funnycan.

Another home-bred horse highlighted the British sport horse industry when Mennell

Watson and West Midlands-based Euro Sport Horse's Whisper In The Wind (Cobretti x Mr Majestic) finished second in the sevenyear-old B final.

The six-year-old championship was almost a carbon copy of the previous year's five-year-old class. Dutchman Maikel van Mierlo and the KWPN gelding Earley (Harley VDL x Indorado) repeated their 2014 triumph, with Brazilian Marlon Zanotelli again taking silver, this time on Ellavar X (see box). Francis Connors rode the Irish sport horse Drumiller

RESULTS

17 Sept: 7yo 1st Q.- 1, Woutland Imagine (K Vereecke) BEL: 2. Dakar V (M Wilson Fernandes) POR; 3, MHS Washington (L Renwick) GBR; 17 & 25, Talks Cheap & Cool Feeling (E McMahon) IRE; 43, Dekato (A Butler) IRE; 46, Liberation (A O'Regan) IRE. **6yo.**–1, NPS Andre (L Mantel) GBR; 2, Ard Ginger Pop (M Zanotelli) BRA; 3, VDL Groep Ernest (N Parmier) SWE: 9. Alberta Mist (G Broderick) IRE; 30, Vagabond De Kezeg (S Richards), IRE; 34, FTS Elliot (N Fearon) (S Richards), IRE; 34, F1 S Zimici (N Fedroin) IRE; 58, Very Chic Du Tillard (S Babes) GBR; 61, Quasita Z (E McMahon). **5yo.** – 1, 91 tied inc Darkness Z & Fleetwood W (S Smith) IRE; Colmar (S Breen), IRE; KMR Twilight (C Rafferty) IRE; Follyfoot Dolce Vita DBZ (S-J Coffin) GBR; Ferrari III (M Fursedonn) GBR; Funnycan (L Mantel); VDL Friso SMH (J Billington) GBR; Cruicerath Flexianna (E Moloney) IRE; RVS Lui Fortunus (G Phelan) IRE. 18 Sept: 7yo 2nd Q.- 1, Chilli Willi (N Phillipaerts) BEL; 2, IQ Van Het Steentje (W Vermeir) BEL; 3, Inne Van De Plataan (K Cox) BEL: 5. Cavalino 26 (N Fearon); 8, Dassler (L Saywell) GBR; 10, Castlefield Rubinus (E McMahon); 13, Davidson (J Billington); 33 & 44, Karina & Cazador LS (S Babes); 45, Dekato. Zangersheide sires of the world warm-up.-1, For Fox Heldeniaan (K Cox); 2, Bacardi (M Bettinger) GER; 3, Orplid (C Kauert) GER; 4, Mr Visto (C Nicol) GBR. **6yo 2nd Q.**– 1, Think Twice III Z (T Goffinet) BEL; 2, Kappa De Quijas (J Jimenez) ESP: 3. Careko Z (C Ahlmann) GER; 7, Coquin De Coquerie Z (T Wilks) GBR; 9, CSF Mr Kroon (D Egan) IRE; 11, Drumiller Houdini (F Connors) IRE; 14, Deep Pockets (J Derwin) IRE; 16, Warriors

IN THE GENES

Made in Yorkshire

TWO top horses that could have represented a British studbook jumped for the Netherlands — and one took the silver medal in the six-year-old class.

Dassler and Ellavar X were conceived in Yorkshire, but breeder Karl Fuller sent their dams to Holland to foal. Both were registered with the KWPN and returned to Britain to be produced.

Second place in the six-year-old championship went to Ellavar X (Calvaro Z x Clearway), now owned by the Irish/Dutch partnership of Ashford Farms, Jos Lansink and Q Sport Horses, while Louise Saywell rode Billy Twomey's Dassler (Douglas x Cassini II) in the seven-year-old classes.

Houdini (Clinton x Ballinvella) into ninth position.

The five-year-old title also went to a rider from the Netherlands in Doron Kuipers on the big-jumping Belgian-bred Kerswin Van't Roosakker (Echo Van't Spieveld x Diamant De Semilly). H&H

Glory (M Boddy) GBR; 17, Filou Carlo (C Drain) IRE; 21, Alberta Mist; 33, FTS Elliot. 5yo. – 1, 73 tied, inc Cruicerath Flexianna; Heartstring (J Wingrove) GBR; Etoile Van Wijnhoeve Z (S Higgin) GBR; VDL Friso SMH; Ferrari III; KMR Twilight; Funnycan; Follyfoto Dolec Vita DBZ & Crocantino Of Greenhill Z (S-J Coffin); Fleetwood W & Darkness 2; MHS Attraction (J Rankin) IRE. 19 Sept: Tyo B final. – 1, Channing L (T Hassmann) GER; 2, Whisper In The Wind (M Watson) GBR; 3, Urfee D'Illiatt (B Cernin) FRA; 12, Cavalino 26. C final. – 1, Iluna (L de Luca) ITA; 2, Charley (D Willemsen) NED; 3, Duble (M Hjorth Fredriksen) DEN; 4, Darya I Nur (P Spivey) GBR. FEI Zangersheide sires of the world GP. – 1, Bacardi (M Bettinger) GER; 2, Okidoki Van T Gelutt Z (S Polleunis) BEL; 3, VDL Cartello (J Billington); 5, Velini (J Clayton) GBR; 9, Mr Visto. 6yo B final. – 1, Bellissimo Z (P Spits) BEL; 2, Think Twice III 2; 3, Catalaya (M Klempa) POL; 6eq, Eindhoven GH (J Mincher) GBR; 11, Monsoon Monday (P Spivey); 15, Quasita 2; 23, Beech Hill Lucia (J Rankin); 44, Jonker Van Sombeke (J Mendoza) GBR. 5yo. – 1, Konka A (V de Bock) BEL; 2, Forever Liefhebber (K Zafiropoulos) GRE; 3, Crocantino of Greenhill Z; 23, MHS Attraction; 32, Dignity (S Babes). 20 Sept: FEI world 5yo ch. – 1, Kerswin Van't Roosakker (D Kuipers) NED; 2, Keops V Begijnakker (Y Vanderhasselt), BEL; 3, Frmidable (W Greve) NED. 6yo. – 1, Earley (M van Mierlo) NED; 2, Ellavar X (M Zanotelli); 3, Take A Chance On Me Z (C Ahlmann) GER; 8, FTS Elliot; 9, Drumiller Houdini. 7yo. – 1, Knet Washington; 3, Talks Cheap; 4, Davidson.

Picture by Arnd Bronkhorst











Nine marks ahead: all-the-way CIC* winners Emily Baldwin and Uppercourt Cooley

South of England (2), Sussex 26–27 September

By Ellie Hughes

EMMA TATTERSALL is riding on the crest of a wave at the moment and her purple patch continued at South of England (2), where she headed a competitive SEES Ltd CIC2* with Caroline Teltsch's seven-year-old mare Santiago Bay.

Jumping was the name of the game and Gemma's inexperienced mare rose to the challenge.

"I've been trying to win this class for a while," grinned the West Sussex-based rider, who has had to play second fiddle to prolific Ardingly winner Pippa Funnell here several times.

Gemma and Santiago Bay kicked off with a dressage score of 37.4, jumped a rare clear round around an influential showjumping track (see box, right) before nimbly negotiating the cross-country for 6.8 timepenalties – the sixth-fastest round of the section.

"She's like a little JA pony; she's such fun and so bouncy to ride," enthused Gemma, who took on the mare 18 months ago and won a novice section with her here this time last year. "I'm so impressed with how she's come on. This was a serious course and some of the combinations wouldn't have looked out of place at a three-star."

Indeed, Scott Brickell's
22-fence track had been ramped
up a notch. Questions came thick
and fast, especially towards the
end. The second water required
accuracy and honesty for the big
skinny first element before
running downhill over the log drop
into the water, while the following
quarry combination demanded
scope and precision to jump out
over an imposing stone wall and
on to a cleverly sited corner.

Riders who kept a good line and rode positively made this combination look easy. One of the tidiest here was the runner-up Hedvig Wik, who partnered Chippieh to land her best international result to date.

Seven-year-old Santiago Bay

'bounces' round a beefed-up track t

top the CIC2* with Gemma Tattersall

"The plan is to go to Boekelo

the Swede, who came to England

for our first CCI3*, so this was

an ideal preparation run," said

three years ago to base herself

with Pippa Funnell but moved

to Christopher Burton's yard

With these two dressage

protagonists as her mentors it

phase on a score of 36.7.

came as little surprise to see the

22-year-old leading after the first

earlier this year.





CIC2* runners-up: Sweden's Hedvig Wik and Chippieh achieve a personal best

"Chippieh is a lovely, straightforward horse. I knew it was a good test when we came out of the arena, but the mark was a lovely surprise," continued Hedvik, who had to hotfoot it from Ardingly to the University of Sussex, where she is about to embark on a business degree. "I'm planning to carry on eventing my five horses alongside studying. I'm not sure how it'll work out yet, but I'm going to give it a good shot."

Baldwin has the upper hand

EMILY BALDWIN recorded an emphatic win in the 66-strong Savills CIC*. She partnered Uppercourt Cooley, a classy looking seven-year-old by Warrenstown You 2.

The pair led from the start, adding just 1.2 time-penalties across country to a dressage score of 38.1.

"He's a lovely mover so he usually scores well, but today he pulled a really good test out of the bag and I felt he thoroughly deserved to be leading," said Emily, who bought the gelding

from Fiona Breach two years ago and finished fourth in the young horse CIC* at Tattersalls earlier this season. "He's still quite gangly and a little bit insecure, so I've been bringing him on slowly. I think he's a proper one for the future, though."

Charlotte Bacon headed a small under-21 open intermediate section riding Karen Huyton's lovely mare Sannanvalley Justice. The pair added a double jumping clear to a dressage score of 30.2.

"It's Karen's birthday today, so there will be double celebrations tonight," said Charlotte, who was part of this year's bronze medalwinning British junior team in Bialy Bor. "We had two rails down in Poland, so it was great to put in a really solid performance."

Sannanvalley Justice's former rider, Laura Collett, topped the open intermediate with Nick How, Keith Scott and her own Mr Bass, an impressive seven-year-old who made light work of both jumping phases.

Ludvig Svennerstal landed the sole intermediate section with Aspe. **H&H**

RESULTS

CIC2*, - 1, Santiago Bay (G Tattersall) 37.4,0,6.8=44.2; 2, Chippieh (H Wik) 36.7,0,11.6=48.3; 3, Billy Cuckoo (P Funnell) 40.5,0,8=48.5, 01. - 1, Mr Bass (L Collett) 25.5,0,8=33.5; 2, MGH Grafton Street (P Funnell) 24.6,6,5.2=35.8; 3, The Lion (M Heath) 31.4,2.8=37.9, Olu21. - 1, Sannanvalley Justice (C Bacon) 30.2,1,14=45.2; 2, Coogee Storm (G Taylor) 34.1,0,11.2=45.3; 3, Just Amazing III (F Collins) 30,0,16.4=46.4, Int. - 1, Aspe (L Svennerstal) 25.9,0,13.6=39.5; 2, Crambamboli (A Clark) 26.6,0,14.8=41.4; 3, She's My Master (A O'Connor) 25.2,4,14.8=44. Clc*, - 1, Uppercourt Cooley (E Baldwin) 38.1,0,1.2=39.3; 2, Rosanagh (H Wilson) 41.1,4,3.2=48.3; 3, Zoook (S Jenman) 47.6,0,2.4=50. ON.-1, Danceing Fox (K McNab) 27.8,0,0.8=28.6; 2, Brass Farthing (G Tattersall) 28.3,0,0.4=28.7; 3, Simpson II (G Strang) 30.3,0,3.6=33.9. ONu18, -1, Sans Soucis Du Lys (C Mariani) 28.3,8,5.6=41.9; 2, Merrywell Cavalier (A Lowe) 28.8,4,9.2=42; 3, Early Spring (O Bartlett) 35.3,4,3.2=42.5. nov sec H.-1, Im Blushing (A Lowe) 30.5,0,8.4=38.9; 2, Oratorio II (L Collett) 26.3,8,5,6=39.9; 3, J Donder (I

Talking point
Why did the showiumn

Why did the showjumping cause problems?

RIDERS have come to expect proper jumping tracks at this fixture and the combination of slightly sticky ground, up-to-height courses and the added atmosphere of jumping in the main arena resulted in faults galore and more than a few glum faces.

Only seven combinations managed to jump clear in the CIC* class, while there were just nine faultless rounds in the 59-strong CIC2*.

"The good riders made it look easy, while the ones that didn't have enough mileage at this level were found out; it was really noticeable who had been out jumping round Foxhunter classes and who came in on a wing and a prayer," said course-designer Brian Lear.

"I made all the distances on straight lines true, but where I built fences on a bit of a curve I gave riders the option of how many strides to put in and what line to take — and that's where many struggled."

Gemma Tattersall, who qualified her CIC2* winner Santiago Bay for the 1.20m championship in the main arena at Hickstead earlier this year, said: "I love riding the tracks here. Brian doesn't hand it to you on a plate — these are thinking riders' courses.

"The distance coming out of the treble was short, but then the next related distance was on the forward side, so you had to recognise this and react."



Under-21 OI winners Sannanvalley Justice and Charlotte Bacon post a double clear

Knight) 32.8,0,7.2=40. sec I.-1, Creevagh Bobby Joe (K McNab) 32.8,0,4=36.8; 2, Fine Fleur (H Wilson) 30.8,4,6=40.8; 3, Fernhill Ferro Clover (E Dougall) 35,0,6=41. sec L.-1, Dacapo (L Collett) 22.5,0,3.2=25.7; 2, Brookfield inocent (K McNab) 29.3,0,1.2=30.5; 3, Liberty And Glory (T Crisp) 31.8,0,4=35.8. BE1000pen.-1, Donnerstar (S Miles) 30.5,0,0.8=31.3; 2, Lady Elfreda (S Jemman) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 3, Courville B Z (C Kerruish) 28.5,4,0=32.5. BE100 sec A.-1, Garrybritt Primrose (G Murphy) 22.3,0,0=22.3; 2, Monets Wish (G Strang) 24,0,0=24; 3, Jacorde (G Strang) 26,0,4,8=30.8. sec B.-1, Santana II (T Jackson) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 2, Francescas Rock (A James) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 3, Maybach (H Wik) 26.3,4,0=30.3. sec C.-1, Cundlegreen Darius (T Cousillas) 26.8,4,0=30.8; 2, Valentino (T Marsh) 29.5,0,1.6=31.1; 3, Perncarder Condors Boy (E Clucas) 32.5,0,2=34.5. sec D.-1, Fizz V (T Jackson) 23.0,0=23; 2, Sarabande (E Mills) 26,0,0=26; 3, Menlo Park (K McNab) 27.0,2=9. BE100ulla -1, Cloverhill Rebel (L Crichton) 27.3,4,0.4=31.7; 2, Moon Artist (A Rietdyk) 27.8,4,0=31.8; 3 rairground Fergal Of Ballinasloe (G Bartholomew) 32,0,0=32.

Parkes posts milestone win



A bold cross-country round coupled with showjumping clear helps seal Sarah Parkes her first international win on Cyres in the CIC*

Aske (2), North Yorks 25-27 September

By Helen Scott

ARAH PARKES picked up her first international victory, finishing on her dressage score in an action-packed CIC* with new ride Cyres.

Lying fourth after the dressage, a rare clear showjumping round moved her up a place, giving her every chance cross-country. The leaders going into cross-country, Philippa Nixon and Arctic Cruising, faulted at the influential double of shoulder brushes at four, and Sam Ecroyd, in second,

piloted Opera House to a sympathetic round, clocking up over 20 time-penalties.

With all to play for, Sarah gave Francesca Swallow's eight-year-old a bold ride.

"I'll admit to taking the flag on 4b and I swear he looked into the ditch at the brush at 14, but they were the only hairy moments," she said.

The pair made the time, one of only two combinations to do so.

"I thought the track was presented beautifully but quite challenging with lots of questions," said Sarah, who has had the Nassau gelding just three months. He was produced earlier in his career by Millie Dumas, and is headed to Weston Park.

Finishing second was Yorkshire rider Christopher Whittle on Philomena Ogle's Foxglove Skylark, putting behind them an unfortunate retirement at Allerton Park the previous weekend, when he was unseated.

The pair were the last to go in the dressage, which helped them score a competitive 48.1.

"I brought her here to have a bit of fun at the end of the season," said Christopher. "She can be spooky when there are horses around her, so going last was good for us. She jumped clear so I knew we were in with a chance and she was very honest across country."

Annabel Carthy, 15, was third on her own Kilfarissey Breeze, contesting her third one-star this year in preparation for the junior class at Weston Park.

"I was nervous about some of the combinations on the crosscountry, but knew that if I got my finger out we could get placed. We've been working hard on the dressage and it paid off with his mark here [47.7]."

There were problems all over the track, but the influential obstacles were at 4ab, at which eight combinations faulted, and the penultimate fence, another double of shoulder brushes with a challenging line that caused trouble for nine. Clears in the undulating showjumping arena were also at a premium.

Ups and downs

SARA BURDESS made up for the disappointment of missing out a fence in the intermediate on her home-bred Tale Of Two Shivers with a win in the open intermediate after a double clear on her seasoned campaigner Carlingford Shiver (see box).

"That's what comes of walking the course with three children under four – we were in contention until I went through the gate instead of over a ditch combination," she said.

In second was Storm Straker on Well Designed, her junior European squad horse from last year. Storm was battling laryngitis, and a lack of riding

TALKING POINT An unusual build-up

SARA BURDESS' Carlingford Shiver had an interesting preparation ahead of his open intermediate win.

Sara's husband Paul is a riding double on the upcoming ITV blockbuster *Beowulf*, which is filming in Co. Durham, and he has been using Shiver to practise on.

"I was away at Blenheim, so Paul said he would work him for me. It's good practice for Paul because if you don't push the right buttons the horse won't do a thing," explained Sara.

"Once I loaned him to the Grand National-winning jockey Ryan Mania for a charity evening, and the horse stopped at a cross pole," Sara added

"Paul admitted to falling off once, but he wanted to take credit for my win when I phoned to tell him."



ictures by Nick Gill

icture by Jo Prestwich

preparation because she is away at boarding school, but like Sara she produced a double clear.

Emily Parker headed the intermediate section on Fiona Laing's smart Cooley Zest, despite dropping a pole after missing at a downhill oxer in the showjumping. They are now heading to Osberton.

"It was technical enough, so a good preparation. I just hope we haven't peaked too soon," Emily joked.

In second was Polly Stockton on Anne Henson's Lariats Sun, making up for an uncharacteristic miss trying to go straight at the penultimate combination when in contention with Ortolan.

Phillipa Ward and her striking coloured, The Artist Almost Famous, were in third despite losing a shoe at fence five.

They are also heading to Osberton for the seven-year-old class and have been cramming in preparation by competing a lot this summer, after their yard was quarantined for three months in the spring due to strangles being brought in by a racehorse who had been out on loan. H&H

RESULTS

NL-1, Carlingford Shiver (S Burdess)
31.8,0,6.8=38.6; 2, Well Designed (S
Straker) 32.5,0,10.8=43.3; 3, VIP IV (L Riley)
33.9,4,6.0=43.9. Int sec B.—1, Cooley Zest (E
Parker) 28,4,10=42; 2, Lariats Sun (P Stockton)
32.7,0,10=42.7; 3, The Artist Almost Famous
(P Ward) 31.6,0,12.4=44. ClC*.—1, Cyres (S
Parkes) 45.5,0,0=45.5; 2, Foxglove Skylark (C
Whittle) 481,0,0=48.1; 3, Kilfarissey Breeze (A
Carthy) 47.7,0,6.8=54.5. nov sec D.—1, Equi
(O Williams) 29.3,0,5.6=34.9; 2, Silwer Lily A
Postolowsky) 34.5,0,64=40.9; 3, Bold Over (H
Lawson) 38.5,0,3.2=41.7. sec E.—1, Alvescot Mr
Nice Guy (D Scott) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 2, A Touch
Cavalier (E Chilton) 33.5,0,1.6=35.1; 3, All Or
Nothing II (A Postolowsky) 26,0,9.6=35.6.
sec P.—1, Bordergrove Mexico (N Smith)
29.5,0,0=29.5; 2, Foxwood Brown Sugar
(A Lumley) 28.5,4,0=32.5; 3, Easy Feelings
(W Bower) 25.8,4,2.8=32.6. BEIOOFF.—1,
Mullentine Forever (S Williams) 29.5,0,0=29.5;
2, Plimsolls Line (E Gibbon) 31.8,0,0=31.8; 3,
Tommy Tuckery (R Magleave) 32.8,0,0=32.8.
sec O.—1, Jolly Fergus (K Trueman)
27.8,0,0=27.8; 2, Rockstar VIII (E Carvey)
28.0,0=28.BEIOOopen.—1, Ardeo Fun Size
(S O'Neil) 26,4,0=30; 2, Loughnatousa Rose
(K Gaines) 32.8,0,0=32.8; 3, Be Crystal Clear
(W Oakden) 30.5,0,2.8=33.3, BEIOO sec F.—1,
Christoff (S Ecroyd) 22.5,0,0=22.5; 2, Finding
Nico (K Carson) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 3, Henrys Best
(E Carmichael) 29.5,0,0=29.5, sec L.—1, Grafik
III (A Bellamy) 22.3,0,0=22.3; 2, Santiago S
(A Farrar-Fry) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 3, Kingsland
Prince Of Tride (S Sacks) 20.3,4,2=271. Be90
sec H.—1, Miley Keys (A Mills) 28.3,0,0=28.3;
2, Frodo Bagglins (A Forster-Blenkinsop)
30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Goldies Indiana (N Chandler)
30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Goldies Indiana (N Chandler)
30.5,0,0=32.8; 2, Rockmount Darius
(J Barnitt) 32.8,0,0=32.8; 2, Rockmount Darius
(J Barnitt) 32.8,0,0=32.8; 2, Rockmount Darius
(J Barnitt) 32.8,0,0=32.8; 3, Owneykree Joy
(S Horner) 33.3,0,0=33.3; sec J.—1, Business
Time (C Fairs) 28.8,0,0=32.8; 2, Rockmount Darius
(J Barnitt) 32.8,0,0=32.8; 2, Rockmount Darius
(J Barnitt) 32.8,0



A French eclipse

Kelsall Hill (2), Cheshire

25-27 September

By Jo Prestwich

HE phrase "Eclipse first, the rest nowhere" was coined for the legendary racehorse who ran his rivals ragged and remained unbeaten in the 1760s.

Fast forward some 250 years and it could just as well have applied to Piggy French, whose Sunday outing to Kelsall Hill had to be seen to be believed. Her four rides picked up two firsts, a second and a third, and the only person to beat her was herself as she won the intermediate and followed up with a one-two-three in the open intermediate (OI).

Fittingly, both her winners – Jayne McGivern's Cooley Top Cat (intermediate) and Racesafe's Belco HRS in the OI – trace back to the famous horse through their dams.

Piggy only started riding Cooley Top Cat in June, and in eight outings the horse has now recorded four wins.

"He was bought by default," said Piggy, who saw the horse while in Ireland for Tattersalls Horse Trials. "Jayne needed another horse like a hole in the head, but having seen him we couldn't leave him behind. He is a superstar in the making and if he doesn't make four-star then I've failed him."

Belco HRS is now heading for Weston Park's CCI2*, bypassing Osberton where he has been five-, six- and sevenyear-old champion with Tom How in the saddle.

"Tom did an amazing job on the horse," added Piggy. "He's given up riding full-time for a proper job; eventing is now a hobby and Belco is no hobby horse. He might be nine but he seems to think he's five. That said, he's a lovely boy."

Filling the runner-up position behind Piggy in the intermediate was 18-year-old Aimee Penny riding Hirondelle De Fribois B. The mare had competed up to novice level when Aimee bought her but came with a reputation of being a bit of a wild child.

"I took a massive risk buying her and I still ride her five times before I do the dressage, but she's

RESULTS

OI.- 1, Belco HRS (P French) 24.1,0,2.4=26.5; 2, Quarrycrest Echo (P French) 28.6.0.2.8=31.4: 3, Morswood (P French) 27.5,4,2=33.5. int sec V.– 1, Cooley Top Cat (P French) 24.8,0,2=26.8; 2, Hirondelle De Fribois B (A Penny) 32.1,0,0=32.1; 3, Maesmawr Fox (H Waterhouse) 32.3,0,7.6=39.9. **ON.**–1, Stormhill Clover (F Chandler) 33.3.0.16=34.9: 2. For The Boys (C Hardie) 28.8,0,8=36.8; 3, Cooley Rolle Coaster (E Chandler) 31.4.4.4=39.4. ONu18.-1. Akava (S Evans) 35.3,0,0=35.3; 2, Forrests Foxy Lady (H Coy) 25.8,8,4=37.8; 3, Strike A Pose (H Needham) 29.3,4,6=39.3, **nov sec M.**–1, Don Quidam (P Sims) 27.5,0,2=29.5; 2,
Cisinia (H Booth) 26.3,0,4=30.3; 3, Testa Rossa Express (R Curtis) 33.8,0,0=33.8. sec N.- 1, Oaklands First Time (A Duffort) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 2, Mini Cooper S (J De Winton) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 3, William XVII (A Hua Tian) 17,0,10=27. sec P.– 1, Castle View Larry (J Clarke) 28.5,0,2.8=31.3; 2, Killy Puisance (D Meehan) 36,0,0=36; 2, Thunder VI (M Owen) 33.5,0,3.2=36.7.

BE100open.—1, Dunaire Duke Of York (V Hancox) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 2, Farnabys Dream (N Furniss) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 3, Drop The Subject (A Kolleth) 30.8,0,0=30.8. **BE100u18.**–1, Lookout Lollypop (S Wilson) 27,0,1.6=28.6; 2, Noble Rebel (K Taylor) 30.5,0,2=32.5; 3, Killbunny Now Or Never (H Needham) 303,4,0=34.3. BE100 sec H.- 1, Craobh Rua (D Llewellyn) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 2, Future Boy SMH (C Ryan Bell) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 3, Django III (R Alcorn) 29.0.0.8=29.8. sec I.- 1, Davinci I (J Brakewell) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 2, Stu N Dumplings (A Morris) 27.3.0.0=27.3: 3. Global Royal Luxor (E Philp) 29.5,0,0=29.5. sec U.- 1, Naughty Nala (M

very consistent across country," said Aimee, who has done her A levels this year and is now concentrating on a career with horses. "I have to remind myself that she did her first intermediate only 12 months ago and is not that experienced."

The Mark Phillips/David Evans cross-country caused its fair share of trouble, with the corner at 7a proving the bogey.

"It was a course that made good use of the terrain," said Piggy. "The going was perfect and although it was a little twisty it was still smooth to ride. Mine were all having final runs before three-days and it couldn't have been better." H&H

Owen) 21,0,0=21; 2, Thrift Linda May (V Hancox) 25.3,0,0=25.3; 3, Casta Diva (M Thelwell) 25,0,0.8=25.8, **BE90open.** – 1, Timberwolf III (R Long) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 2, Samurai Elite (F Barry) 32,0,1.2=33.2; 3, Red Jamboree (S Harvey) 33.3,0,0=33.3. **BE90 sec A.**– 1, Valentino VII (A Charnley) 31.5,0,2.8=34.3; 2, Handsome II (B Hartley) 34.5; 3, Dreamcatcher VII (R Gray) 34.5,0,0.4=34.9. sec B.- 1, Harthill Chillout (O Lofthouse) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 2, Victori Night (J Hughes-Jones) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Jumbo Jetstream (K Trueman) 31.3,0,0=31.3. sec C.-Hej Ariel (B Hartley) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 2, Kellys Hill (S Cadwallader) 26.3,0,0=26.3; 3, Carnsdale Beachboy (L Robinson) 26.5,0,0=26.3. sec Q.-1, Tea In Marrakech (H Duning) 22.3,4,0=26.3; 2, Daldo (L Morton) 25.5,4,0=29.5; 3, Quaikin Surreal (A Bradbury) 32.5.0.0=32.5, sec R.- 1. Out Of The Blue (J Penny) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Lux Like Snow (C Griffiths) 25.8,4,0=29.5; 3, Dstud Boston Lux (J Kirby) 29,4,0=33. sec S.-1, Brineton Rupert (K Olivieri) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 2, Humamelody (R Gilsenan) 31.3,0,0=31.3; 3, Goodshapes Beauty (A Towler) 32,4,36. sec T.-1, Under Wraps (A Cornwall) 21.8,0,1.6=23.4; 2, Knights Beau (M Wadeson) 27.8,0,0=27.8; 3 Pictus Durian (S Kranz) 27.8,0,0=27.8. BE80(T) sec E.- 1, Llanidan Joy (N Butterworth) 26.0.0=26: 2. Landis Rocket Man (R Gilsenan) 23.3,0,7=30.2; 3, Midhope Diamond (A Herring) 31.5. sec F.- 1, A Touch Of Brandy (B Lancashire) 28,0,0=28; 2, Ardfield Zena (F White) 29,0,0=29; 3, Larriston Red Bailey (D Titterton) 26.3,4,0=30.3. sec G.- 1, Lightning Conductor (C Brierley) 26,0,0=26; 2, Carlando (L Walkden) 26,0,0=26; 3, Crabbies Cloudy (G Thomas) 24.3,0,2.4=26.7

The Ruby Knight turns it around



Equestrian Surfaces Pontispool (2), Somerset 20-21 September

By Rebecca Haywood

ESPITE being underestimated in his early years, The Ruby Knight clinched the under-21 open intermediate (OI) – his first win at the level.

The Tyson 10-year-old, ridden by Cameron Beer, finished on a total score of 42.4.

"I've ridden him since 2012 when we started at BE90. He won the novice under-18 here last year," said Cameron, who events The Ruby Knight for owner/ breeder Paulette Baker.

"When we first started eventing him he was absolutely awful. He showed no talent whatsoever and we wondered if he'd get to BE100. Now he's a machine across country and has turned out to be fantastic," said Cameron, 19, who started studying drama at Exeter University this year. "Paulette has him at home and also competes to British Dressage elementary level with him, so it's a joint effort.

"He's known for being an absolute diva but he's been great this year – there hasn't been any pressure on him because we really didn't think he had it in him," concluded Cameron of the chestnut gelding.

Having been retired on the cross-country at Burghley Horse Trials, Whitson made a winning return to competition with Louise Harwood, heading the OI section.

"His bloods weren't right after Burghley, but he was perky and springy here and that was the main issue for us," said Louise, who rides the son of Cameo's Reflection for owners Roy Baker and Emma Baker-Jones.

British-bred Whitson topped last year's British Eventing (BE) horse rankings. Here, the pair added 2.4 cross-country timepenalties to their dressage score of 28.6.

"He was speedy across country and I was able to kick on as the ground was lovely," said Louise.

Both Cameron and Louise said the course was "difficult enough", with the first water complex causing a few problems.

"I thought problems were spread around the course but the double of skinnies coming out of the water did prove a little tricky," said Louise.

A happy double runner-up

JAMIE-LEE DAY took the bridesmaid positions in two sections. Serano finished second to Whitson on 34.2 in the OI, while Kato Ridge finished second in intermediate section L (see box, right).

"Serano has been my horse of a lifetime and he owes me absolutely nothing," said Jamie-Lee, who is bringing the 17-year-old back down the levels. "Now is the time for him to have fun, then ideally we will retire him.

"He has picked up small injuries over the years and we're letting him have a few fun runs. He has been the first horse with whom I've been up through the levels and had the opportunity to compete at three-star."

Jamie-Lee thought the course was technical.

"It really suited both my horses as they're on the smaller side. With the twisty turns it meant I could keep up a bit of speed," she said.













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ONE TO WATCH Kato Ridge

HAVING finished second in intermediate section L, Kato Ridge will wrap up his 2015 season at Osberton (1-4 October). The nine-year-old bay gelding was bought from Austin O'Connor as a five-year-old and has been brought through the levels by owner/rider Jamie-Lee Day.

"He's a very talented horse and I've given him a bit of extra time and taken it slowly," said Jamie-Lee, who has contested one CIC2* with the son of Ricardo 7.

"Hopefully he should go to three-star as he has the scope and ability. That will be his aim next year. He's a fantastic jumper — he's careful, bold, and has come into his own this year."

Susan Jenkins' Dowalda clinched intermediate section L on a score of 33.9 with Tom Jackson. The seven-year-old added 10 time-penalties to a dressage score of 23.9.

"She's always really consistent," said Tom, who finished second with the daughter of Wizzerd in the CCI* at Hartpury in August. "This was her first run since then and I wasn't planning on being competitive, hence the time-penalties."

Dowalda is heading to Le Lion, France, for the world breeding

RESULTS

OI.—1, Whitson (L Harwood) 28.6,0,2.4=31; 2, Serano (JL Day) 30.2,0,4=34.2; 3, Mo Cuiske (K King) 31.6,0,5.2=36.8. int sec L.—1, Dowalda (T Jackson) 23.9,0,10=33.9; 2, Kato Ridge (JL Day) 29.6,0,4.8=34.4; 3, Gortmore Tommy T (E Young-Jamieson) 28.2,0,10.4=38.6. sec K.—1, Balla Star Bay (T Tanaka) 22.5,0,8.4=30.9; 2, Bernadette Utopia (P McCarthy) 27.3,0,7.2=34.5; 3, Secret Night (W Fox-Pitt) 25.5,0,10=35.5. Olu21.—1, The Ruby Knight (C Beer) 35.2,4,3.2=42.4; 2, Albert VI (C Pearce) 28.9,0,14.4=43.3; 3, Last Touch (C Bacon) 38.4,0,9.6=48. IN.—1, Marstonpark Lupina (D Evans) 29.8,0,0=29.8; 2, Penhill Touch of Class (M Dumas) 33.0,0=33; 3, Milestone Gold (A Carter) 31.8,0,12=33. nov sec P.—1, Little Fire (W Fox-Pitt) 23.5,0,2.4=25.9; 2, Olsie (V Fleming) 28.0,0=28; 3, Eluna (N Spratt) 23.0,8=31. sec 0.—1, RBF Masquerade (J May) 32.0,2=34; 2, Galwaybay Echo (N Spratt) 31.3,0,4.8=36.1; 3, Halona A Sprig (J Pinkney) 37.3,0.0.4=37.7. BE10Oopen.—1, The Night Traveller (A Bragg) 23.3,0,0=23; 2, Rock N Roll (N Pannell) 24.3,4,1=31.7; 3, Elise V (T Pigott) 31.8,0,0=31.8, BE100 sec G.—1, LVS Movistar (S Milnes) 16.5,12,0=28.5; 2, Grandeur II (J Spiller) 29.8,0,0=29.8; 3, Rogans Revenge (K Rickards)

eventing championships for young horses in October.

"Dressage is the phase that she has recently improved in and she is getting good marks," said Tom. "She's lovely to ride and is a really nice mare for the future."

Japanese rider Toshiyuki
Tanaka and Balla Star Bay headed
intermediate section K. This
combination led from the start
with a dressage score of 22.5,
with Ireland's Padraig McCarthy
and Bernadette Utopia following
in second. H&H

21.8,0,9.2=31. sec H.- 1, Bloomfield Tiger Two (A 21.8,0,9,2=31. **sec n.**= 1, bloothield riger 1 wo (A Bragg) 14,0,0=14; 2, Charly Van Ter Heiden (M Summerland) 14.5,0,0=14.5; 3, Boskenwyn Lad (A Brannigan) 17,0,0=17. **sec R.**– 1, Westceffyl Max (W J Hayes) 23.5,0,0.8=24.3; 2, Minacks Maid (H Wright) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 3, Grafs K (S Heal) 28,0,0=28. **BE100u18.**–1, Stambrook Masterful (A Mackenzie) 27,0,0=27; 2, Ace Moonshine (T Abraham) 27.8.0.0=27.8; 3, Holland Brown (M Hullah) 29.8,0,0=29.8. **BE90 sec A.**–1, Clearly Cosmic (K Emery) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Katie V (K Cowling) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 3, Daywize (R Trenaman) 26,0,0=26. sec B.—1, Clintonstown Windy (I Griffiths) 26,0,0=26; 2, Theo V (L Turner) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 3, Earl Of The Greys (A Edmond) 28,0,0=28. sec C.- 1, Hillhead Cruise (S Blower) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 2, Hatheru Cappuccino (N Dayment) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 3, Orions Brite Spark (L Collard) 30.3.0.0=30.3. sec D.- 1. Magical Legend (H Foale) 25,0,0=25; 2, Letterlough King Hector (K Phelps) 26,0,0=26; 3, Hayestown Donny (A James) 27.5,0,0=27.5. **BE90RF sec E.-** 1, Summer Night City (J Crosby) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 2, Freckleton Matador (S Woolley) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 3, Cleodore (H George) 23.3,4,0=27.3. sec F.-1, Prim And Proper III (T Pring) 31.3,0,0=31.3; 2, Pandoras Diplomat (M Buck) 30.5,0,0.8=31.3; 3, Mannin Bay (H Smith) 27.5,4,0=31.5.

COMMENT

PippaRoome

H&H eventing editor



Will card system catch on?

HE stakes in sport can be high, whether the prize at risk is money, a medal or Olympic qualification.

However clear the rules appear to be, it's amazing how the "field of play" can throw up unexpected scenarios. The ongoing dispute over the official who ran in front of Cian O'Connor at the showjumping European Championships and arguably cost Ireland their Olympic ticket proves that.

Between the flags?

ONE area which has often led to dispute in eventing is whether horses have passed inside or outside the flags at corners.

Gemma Tattersall lost out on a brilliant clear at Badminton last year after it was judged Arctic Soul had missed a flag at Huntsman's Close, while Holly Woodhead (and consequently, the whole British team) was eliminated in the Nations Cup at Aachen this summer following a similar judgement on a corner in the water.

The wording of the FEI rule reads: "A horse is considered to have run out if, having been presented at an element or obstacle on the course, it avoids it in such a way that the head, neck and either shoulder of the horse fail to pass between the extremities of the element or obstacle as flagged."

Making the close calls on this is an unenviable job — sitting in the press room at Aachen, our television suddenly flicked on to a back-and-forth replay of Holly's fault in slow motion. We had obviously managed to tune into the channel the ground jury were watching to make their decision and it was a tough one.

At the World Equestrian Games last year, technical delegate Alec Lochore came up with a system to help riders if they are in doubt whether they have passed through the flags.

Fence judges were issued with red and green cards, bearing a

cross or tick. If a rider pulled up, rode back and asked if they had gone clear, the judge would show the relevant card. This removed any language barriers and meant riders could retake the obstacle if the red card was shown — so they added 20 penalties but not an elimination — or continue knowing they were clear if they saw the green. The same system was employed at the Europeans at Blair.

Weighing up the risk

OF course, riders have to make a judgement call on the time it takes to check — a competitor gunning for a win may decide to risk continuing for a fast clear. But offering riders this opportunity to check seems a good idea — they can decide if they want to take it depending on what their aim is for that particular competition.

If a high placing is everything and the time is tight, they will probably continue and accept the possibility of elimination. But if they need a qualification or a completion for their team, they can get the information they need to ensure that.

The crucial part is that if riders are shown the green card, that decision must stand — they cannot then be eliminated if an opposing team protests. This is how the system operated at Blair and that was explained to chef d'equipes in a meeting before cross-country day.

That's only fair — it would be wrong to say that riders could be shown a green card, then eliminated retrospectively. And fence judges — volunteers already under pressure — must be secure in the knowledge that their decision will be respected.

Of course, if a rider brushes through a flag and continues without asking the question, video review can still be used and the rider eliminated.

I look forward to seeing if this system becomes common practice in the future. H&H

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Dalton leapfrogs up for princely triumph

Internationale Military Waregem, Belgium 24-27 September

By Catherine Austen

RITAIN'S Nana Dalton capped a superb season by scoring the biggest win of her career so far in the CIC3* on Margaret and Emily Roser's Abbeylara Prince.

First to go of the 71 runners, nine-year-old Abbeylara Prince's score of 50.1 put them 26th after

'Nana did an

amazing job as

pathfinder-lam

very impressed

with her and

the horse'

Philip Surl

praises Nana Dalton's team debut

dressage. A clear showjumping round elevated them to 14th – and the fastest crosscountry time of the day gave them victory.

Nana, who was making her Nations Cup debut for Britain, said: "Team

orders were to go fast, so we went out there and got on with it. He was class; he has such a big stride and was so bold and straight. When we finished [with 6.8 timefaults] I was apologising for not being quicker!"

Nana has ridden the Ard VDL Douglas gelding since he was a five-year-old. The original plan was for owner Margaret's daughter Emily to have him as a JRN (junior regional novice – now under-18 open novice) horse, but he proved quite sharp and Margaret left him with Nana.

"I love competing at this level, but it takes time and patience to produce horses to get here and then be competitive," said Nana, who is taking Abbeylara Prince and Absolut Opposition – on whom she

> jumped a steady clear as he hasn't run since mid-August – to Pau for the CCI4*.

The first person to congratulate Nana was her friend, neighbour and trainer Christopher Burton, whom

she describes as "a massive help and support over the past couple of years".

Christopher retired across country on Tempranillo, with whom he was leading the CIC3* at that stage, but won the CIC2* on The Black Run Syndicate's Santano II. He led throughout, and finished five marks ahead of second-placed Bettina Hoy and Seigneur Medicott.

Germans extend run of wins

HOWEVER, Nana's triumph couldn't help the British Nations Cup team. Sarah Bullimore was the second-best placed Brit in seventh, but with Valentino V, not her Nations Cup ride Reve Du Rouet. The latter was seventh after dressage but hit two showjumps and then had a run-out across country. And both Francis Whittington (Westside) and Coral Keen (Wellshead Fare Opposition) had falls.

Francis' came when Westside left a leg at the hanging log element of the tough final water complex (22ab and 23ab), while Coral's was at 19b, the middle part of the sunken road.

"The track was twisty, undulating and through woods, which made light/dark contrasts quite strong," said Nana. "Philip Surl [Britain's Nations Cup team manager] said the time would be difficult to get."

Nana was the only rider to finish with single-figure crosscountry time-faults round the 6min 41sec course designed by Tom Ryckewaert.

Philip said: "Nana did an amazing job as pathfinder, and I am very impressed with her and the horse, especially in such a strong international field.

"Sarah looked to be making good progress across country and was within the time, but sadly picked up 20 penalties three fences from home. Coral, who like Nana was making her Nations Cup debut, had a fall – this was a great disappointment but horse and rider are fine.

"So there was a lot of pressure on Francis, who was last out and was making great progress but again, the third fence from home proved unlucky for us when his horse left a leg."

Three members of the winning German team finished in the top 10. Andreas Ostholt was second on Pennsylvania 28; Julia Krajewski was fifth with Samourai Du Thot, and Anna-Maria Rieke was sixth on Petite Dame.

Their team score of 179 was well ahead of second-placed Belgium on 227.6, while the Netherlands finished third with 280.5. Neither Britain, Australia nor France could provide three counting scores, although Paul Tapner finished fourth individually for Australia on Bonza King Of Rouges.

Zara Phillips was third-best Brit behind Nana and Sarah on new ride Watkins in 20th place, having risen from 57th after dressage.

And Coral Keen took the CIC*, leading from start to finish on the six-year-old mare Cascadelle. Zara was fourth on Drops Of Brandy, H&H

RESULTS

ClC30* Nations Cup.— 1, Germany 179 (A Ostholt/Pennsylvania 28 41.8,1,14.8=57.6; J Krajewski/Samourai Du Thot 45.5,0,14.4=59.9; A-M Rieke/Petite Dame 42.7,0,18.8=61.5; A Dibowski/FRH Butts Avedon 49.1,4,16.4=69.5); 2, Belgium 227.6 (J Despontin/Waldano 36 41.4,4,18.4=63.8; J Vanspringel/Lully Des Aulnes 52.7,4,11.2=67.9; P de Cleene/Havanna Van't Castaneahof 52.7,12,312=95.9; V Caulier/Nepal Du Sudre 47.4,4,ret=E); 3, Netherlands 28.0.5 (T Lips/Trademark 55.3,4,12.8=72.1; A Naber-Lozeman/Coral Estate Harry Belafonte 56.7,8,41.6=102.3; N van Roekel/Coral Estate Sagnol 57.7,4,44.4=106.1; R Kooremans/MC B Vulcano 54.5,0,E=E). ClC3*-.1, Abbeylara Prince (N Dalton) GBR; 2, Pennsylvania 28 (A Ostholt) GER; 3, Hamilton 24 (J Sommer) FRA 46.7,0,11.2=57.9; 7, Valentino V (Sarah Bullimore) GBR 46.8;5,10.4=62.2; 20, Watkins (Z Phillips) 57.5,4,16.8=78.3. ClC2*-.1, Santano II (C Burton) AUS 35.9,0,7.6=43.5; 2, Seigneur Medicott (B Hoy) GER 39.1,4,5.6=48.7; 3, Chipmunk FRH (J Krajewski) GER 45.4,0,5.2=50.6. ClC*-.1, Cascadelle (C Keen) GBR 40.4,0,0-40.4; 2, Boy (W de Cleene) BEL 43.9,0,2.8=46.7; 3, Arriba (L Hoogeven) NED 41.4,1,6=47; 4, Drops Of Brandy (Z Phillips) 48.1,0,0-48.1; 10, Scotfree (P Gess-Saurau) GBR 47.8,0,16=49.7.



THE INSIDE SCOOP WITH MICHAEL ASHTON

We catch up with the Team Animalife rider, amateur eventer and hair and make up artist who counts award-winning recording artist Adele as one of his clients, with his work also appearing in magazines such as Vogue

Describe your typical day

MY schedule is so varied. It can involve anything from waking up in a different country almost every morning when I'm on a promo trip with a recording artist, to filming a TV commercial until 6am or walking the red-carpet in Leicester Square with a client for a movie premier. When I'm not working I'm at the yard by 7.30am to feed, muck out and sort the horses before catching up on emails and admin. I then head back to the yard to school the horses in the afternoon.

What advice would you give anyone considering competing horses alongside their professional careers?

"BECOME your dream" — everyone has a dream and there is nothing to stop you achieving it. Work hard and be kind to people while remaining true to what you believe.

Introduce your horses

ROCKABILLY is a 15-year-old bay gelding. I compete him at BE100 level and qualifying for the Badminton Grassroots Championships is my ultimate aim. Interestingly he is a dab hand at opening and shutting gates with his nose while out hacking so you never have to get off! My other ride is Beltons Entente Concordiale, a 10-year-old bay mare who is competing at BE90 level, and is rarely out of the top 10 placings.

What are your go-to Animalife products?

I'M never without Vetroflex Senior. It plays a huge part in keeping the horses supple and provides joint support which is especially important with an older performance horse. My other must-have is Vetrofen Intense powder which I give to the horses two days either side of competition. It is fantastic in aiding recovery and means that even after



Michael, who juggles being a hair and make up artist to the stars with eventing, flies across country riding Rockabilly

running on hard ground they're relaxed, loose and comfortable post-competition.

Which piece of eventing kit could you not live without?

I could live without it, but definitely one of my most prized pieces of kit is my Mark Todd luggage collection which was a gift and has been personalised with my logo. It looks smart and makes packing for competitions much easier.

What's your secret weapon while competing?

IT has to be my 'Learn - A - Test' whiteboard! As a creative/visual person, being able to sketch out my dressage test really commits it to memory. I recommend everyone has at least one in their tack room.

What aspect of your daily routine do you find most challenging?

JUGGLING the balance between work and horses can be challenging. I'm a perfectionist when it comes to all aspects of life and so don't like to do things unless I can commit 100% which means sometimes missing out on entering events with the horses due to work with a client or vice versa. But as they say you can't be in two places at once and although it can be challenging to make it work, the two aspects of my life seem to run in good harmony. I'm also very fortunate to have a great support team behind me. H&H

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Diamond sparkles for Bain

An oil service manager and a farrier find form in Scotland, while a British team physiotherapist takes time out to win in Wales and a wayward gelding comes good at last. **Ellie Hughes** reports

ORTMORE UNAVOIDABLE DIAMOND (Mika) gave his rider, Claire Bain, plenty to smile about when he topped BE90 section F at Wee Burgie, on 19 September.

With two BE80(T)s wins to his name earlier in the year, the fiveyear-old exceeded his rider's expectations by stepping up a level and still finishing on top.

"My only aim was a nice, confident cross-country clear," said Claire, who works full-time for an oil service company and is based in Newmachar, near Aberdeen.

Claire found the gelding two years ago while on a horseshopping expedition to Cork in Ireland.

"A three-year-old certainly wasn't on the cards, but then I saw Mika," she said. "He had already been hunting and was a bit rough around the edges, but he seemed a lovely, straightforward, genuine type."

They say a change is as good as a rest and for BE90 section D winners, Lucy James and Zadat, it certainly seems to have been the case.

"We had a few issues over the



Gortmore Unavoidable Diamond surprises Claire Bain with victory in his first BE90

summer so had a break from eventing and concentrated on dressage instead," explained Lucy. "We were entered in a dressage competition on the day of Wee Burgie, but when I saw at the last minute that the event was still accepting entries I decided to have another crack."

Lucy attributes her win to the fitness work she has been doing with Zadat.

"I realised that our problems had stemmed from a lack of

fitness – he was lacking oomph at crucial moments – so I upped his interval training and that has really helped, even for the dressage," she said.

Not many riders can say that Burgie is their local event, but the Morayshire venue is just that for Elgin-based farrier Claire Simpson, who earned a ticket to next year's Mitsubishi Motors Cup BE100 championship with a win in the regional final riding Margarets Choice (Meg).

Bounce is on springs

DESPITE spending the three weeks leading up to Monmouth on the road with work, Katie Davis still managed to top a novice section with her own DHI Bounce.

The mother-of-one is a physiotherapist and supports riders on the British Equestrian Federation's (BEF) World Class Programme as well as working for England Rugby.

"I'd been away at Burghley, Blair and Blenheim and had only managed to ride at 8.30pm the night before Monmouth," said Kate, who credits showjumper JP Daker, a former eventer, and his wife, Caroline, for keeping Bounce fit and ready to run. "It wouldn't be possible to do what I do without them."

Kate, who headed from the cross-country course straight on to the World Cup rugby pitches, bought the now eight-year-old gelding two years ago from lan and Heidi Woodhead.

"He's one in a million; he adapts to my lifestyle," she added. **H&H**

I OWE IT TO... Late-night outings

AFTER finishing last at Frickley Park (2) on a cricket score of 143.6, Harrogate-based web marketing manager Lucy Thompson knew that a radical plan was needed if she and Jackie Deverill's Midnight Scallywag were to redeem themselves at Allerton Park.

"The showjumping was so

disastrous that I thought I ought to take him to the vets to get his eyes tested," laughed Lucy, who instead hastily scheduled some late-night showjumping practice at Northallerton Equestrian Centre and booked a dressage lesson "at dusk" with her trainer. Ian Brown.

"All my riding has to be done in the evenings because of work – we didn't leave Northallerton until 10pm."

But the outings paid off and the pair finished top of their BE100 class on a score of 28.1.

"Ian had me doing lateral work to get him supple and lengthening his frame to make him look softer," explained Lucy. "In the showjumping I just had to ride more positively, and it helped that the arena was quieter at Allerton – he's very sensitive to noise."





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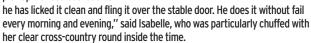




FIRST WIN Isabelle Player

THE 15-year-old GCSE student topped the BE90open section at Munstead (2) with her own 14.2hh pony Smoke Blue (Billy), who loves jumping and "all things to do with eating".

"His favourite trick is to pick up his feed bucket after



'We had a few issues with his saddle at the beginning of the season and that affected his confidence. We gave him a month off eventing, sorted out his saddle and since he's been back he's been storming round."



RESULTS

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ON.-1, Touch Of Rouge (K Hamer) 34.3,0,0=34.3; 2, Crown Meteorite (C Hardinge) 34.5,0,1.2=35.7; 3, Bazaars Chief (L Poole) 34.3,0,5.2=39.5; **ONu18.**–1, Zoretto (G Ewell) 26.3,0,1.6=27.9; 2, Strike A Pose (H Needham) 31.3,0,3.2=34.5; 3, Little Indian Feather (C Pearce) 28.3,4,2.4=34.7. nov.-1, DHI Bounce (K Davis) 29,0,2.8=31.8; 2, Corporal Clover (F Warrington) 25,0,6.8=31.8; 3, Schmaul (E Proud) 28.5,4,0=32.5. 3, schildal (E-Poud) 28.5,4,0=32.5.

BE100plus. – 1, Total Belief (C Keen)
31.5,4,0=31.4; 2, Ballyvonare Pixie (S Sale)
32.5,4,0=36.5; 3, Cefnydd Kyffin (E Mainieri)
33.8,4,0=37.8. BE100open. – 1, Uluru III (V
Hancox) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Wellshead Fare
Enough (S Pinfield) 28,0,0=28; 3, Jolly Idea (F Thorne) 26.5.0.2.8=29.3. BE100 sec A.-1 (E Thorne) 26.5,0,2.8=29.3. BE100 sec A.-1, Kilpatrick Grace (V Tuffs) 21.3,0,0=21.3; 2, Mr Black II (L Zijlmans) 25.3,0,0=25.3; 3, Leonidas 103 (K Cross) 27,0,0=27. sec B.-1, Bolt (S Squires) 25.3,0,1=26.3; 2, Shroughmore My Augustus (L Harwood) 25.3,0,2.8=28.1; 3, Diesel IV (D Zijlmans) 30.3,0,0=30.3. sec C.- 1, Lates Flash (L Ridout) 31,0,0=31; 2, Dannys Best (M Shawcross) 27.5,4,0=31.5: 3, Well Hello There (W Garrick) 34,0,0=34. **BE100u18.**–1, An Imp Named Borris (G Kirk) 23,0,0=23; 2, Delaroche Laurisohn (T Foresternett) 26,0,2.8=28.8; 3, La Liga (G Williams)

MUNSTEAD (2) BE100 sec A.- 1, Jarhetts Gold (E Bradshaw) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Westhills Maximus (S 27.5),0,0=27.5;2, Westhills Maximus (S Jenman) 28,0,0=28;3, For Vehlage (E Llewellyn) 29.3,0,0=29.3. sec B.- 1, Jacorde (G Strang) 28,8,0,0=28.8;2, El Limit (W Furlong) 32,0,0=32;3, Liath (E Midgley) 34.5,0,0=34.5. sec C.- 1, The African Queen (F Dallyn) 24.5,0,0=24.5; 2, Tresaison Hallmark (T Halsall) 24.8,0,0=24.8; 3, Collect The Debt (C Pointing) 28.5,0,0=28.5. **BE90open.**–1, Smoke Blue (I Player) 30,0,0=30; 2, Bonhard Alexander (L Rowlandson) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 3, Surely Dino (P Marino) 30.5,0,0=30.5. BE90RF.-1, Jokers Promise (V Linfield) BE90RF.- 1, Jokers Promise (V Linfield) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Bambajazz (G Lodge) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 3, Solo XII (E Taggart) 28.5,0,0=28.5 BE90 sec E.- 1, Kwaver (S Holmes) 25,0,0=25; 2, Ballynacarrick Rebel Lad (Z Harrison) 21.3,4,0=25.3; 3, Beau Lucian (H Foss) 26.3,0,0=26.3. sec F.- 1, Cavalier Breeze (L Taylor) 26.3,0,0=26.3; 2, Bluecrop 200,000 Sec 10,000 200 Boy (M Selby) 29.5.0.0=29.5; 3. Moon Dancer II (A Ross) 32.3,0,0=32.3. sec H.-1, Rock DJ II (J Samuels) 27.5,0,3=30.5; 2, Chiddock

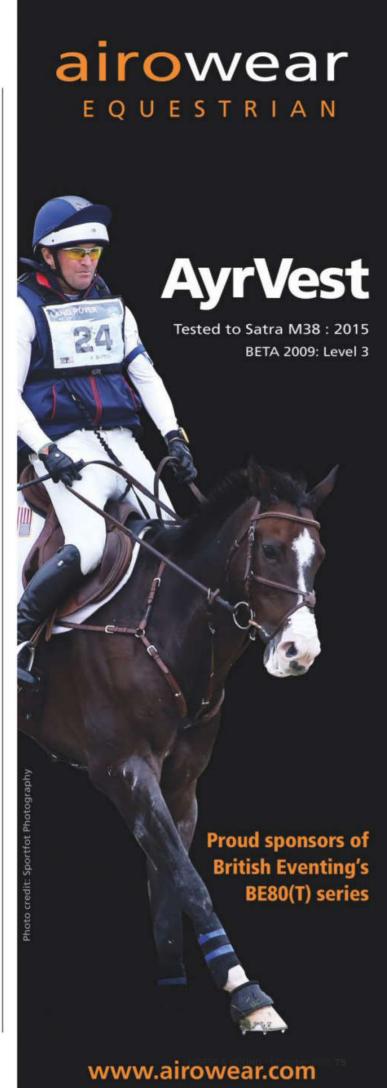
All Or Nothing (S Thornhill) 30.8.0.0=30.8: Touch Of Frost IV (E Peek) 27,2,3.6=32.6. sec I.– 1, JJ Malone (A Parker) 24.5,0,0=24.5; 2, Tullabeg Springtime (K Parker) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 3, Perriland Leonardo (C Lewis) 30,0,0=30. sec J.- 1. Apple IV (K Anderson) 26.0.0=26: 2, Shanbeg Knight (H Newitt) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 3, My Mini Cooper (L Hosking) 29.5,0,0=29.5 sec K.-1, Cicero Van De Vive La Vie (C Bullick) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Carnsdale Show Man (A Bambra) 27.5.0.0=27.5; 3. Killagoola Boy Bambra) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, (Illagoola Boy (N Pearse) 30,0,0=30. BE80(T) sec L.-1, Mountrath Hurley (E Berry) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 2, Hollyhill Golden Bud (C Pointing) 31,0,0=31; 3, Genessas Clover (R Sharpe) 31,0,0=31. sec M.- 1. Bookhamlodge Ronaldo (A Green) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 2, Cornish Boy (C Watson) 29.5,4,0=33.5; 3, Chaplins Disco Dancer (G Burton) 33.5,0,0=33.5. **sec N.-** 1, Shannondale Ozzy (S Jennings) 13,0,0=13; 2, Cloudy Storm (S Holden) 13.8,0,0.4=14.2; 3, Jigilos Girl (T Hodges) 15.3,0,0=15.3. sec 0.– 1, Twilight Blue II (H Stevens) 25.8,4,3.6=33.4; 2, Jetstars II (Z Heydon) 35,0,0=35; 3, Whichilli Charm (A Fitzharris) 31.3,4,0=35.3.

WEE BURGIE

Nov.- 1, Blackcol Lotte (W Oakden) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 2, Zielame (W Oakden) 32,0,0=32; 3, Chapel Down (C Padfield) 24,8,4,4-433,2. BE100open sec A.- 1, Luxus I Do (A Gilbert) 21.8,0,2.8=24.6; 2, Greno Storm Ahead Ted (A Ferrari) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 3, Balblairs Ambassador (A West) 28,3,2=33. sec B.- 1, Nordic Diamond Dan (A Sall) 26.8,0,0=26.8; 2, Wainthropp (E Murray) 29.8,0,0=29.8; 3, Rockhill Rock And Roll (R Stephen) 31,0,0=31. **BE100RF.**= 1, Margarets Choice (C Simpson) 28,0,0=28; 2, Vitaal II (C Calder) 29.8,0,0=29.8; 3, Desdamona (J Lange) 27.8,0,2.8=30.6. BE90RF.- 1, Fan Daby Angus (A Waugh) 30.8,4,0=34.8; 2, Betty Boo XXIII (A Pate) 37,0,0=37; 3, Marqued Man (A Bogue) 33.5,4,0=37.5. **BE90** sec F.- 1, Gortmore Unavoidable Diamond (C Bain) 25.5,5,0=30.5; 2, Whot A Feeling (A Davey) 29.5,0,2.8=32.3; 3, Ultimate II (K Wright) 30.5,4,0=34.5. sec G.-1, Zadat (L James) 21,0,5.2=26.2; 2, Woodville Pat (A Chalmers) 36.8,0,0=36.8; 3, TNT (A Rodda) Chalmers) 36.0,00–36.5, 3, 1N1 (A Rodda) 37.5,0,0–37.5, BEBO(T) see H.-T. J. Dorus (C Hutchison) 26,0,0–26; 2, Aicha Mystic (P Scott) 33.3,0,0–33.3; 3, Ringo (R McFadzean) 26,5,4,7,2–37.7, see I.–T, Dungannon Bay (Z Mackay) 26.8,4,0–30.8; 2, Kirkton Diamond Elite (S Kirkwood) 35.5,0,0=35.5; 3, Luther King (A Waugh) 31.8,4,0.4=36.2.

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AGAINST THE ODDS 'He had a tube inserted under his eyeball'

LIZ GUY'S Bernini, who headed the PSG, was given only a 50% chance of keeping his sight earlier this year after he suffered from a fungal infection and a scratched lens in his eye.

"It took the vets 10 days to find out what was wrong with him, although apparently the infection is common in horses in Florida," said Shaftesburybased Liz.

"Initially Bernini's eye didn't respond to drugs and so the vets had to insert a tube under the ball of the eye to his eyelid, and then they stitched it to the side of his face. He was given treatment 10 times a day and we were extremely lucky that his eyesight is now fine, although he has a slightly cloudy lens," continued Liz.

"I only had time for one lesson before today with my trainer, Nicola Buchanan, but I was really relaxed as we were actually able to be here — he only came back into work in the middle of August."

Dragonheart slays his rivals

West Wilts Petplan Equine Area Festival, Trowbridge

25-27 September

By Annabel Kerby

ESPITE trotting past, instead of up, the centre line at the end of her test before realising and thinking what a fool she was, Charlie Morgan claimed the inter I championship on Dragonheart II,

a 13-year-old by Depardieu.

"We had such a bad time at the Bicton Area Festival that I was determined to enjoy myself today. I only ever wanted to wear my top hat and tails once, so every time is a bonus," said Charlie, who shared her prize-giving with the prix st georges (PSG) winners, Liz Guy and Bernini (see box, above), due to an earlier mistake in the scoring.

"That was a special moment as Liz and I have known each other a long time," said Charlie.

Leia McEvoy took time off from her job as yard manager for Henriette Anderson to win the advanced medium restricted title with her 12-year-old Vic-Set, by Pro-Set, whom she bought last year.

Leia heads off to New Zealand for the winter and said: "I'm only

coming back a few weeks before the championships, but a friend of mine who is on maternity leave is going to work him while I'm away."

Beth Barnett produced a beautiful test to head the open advanced medium championship on Zantino II, by Rousseau, whom she bought through Brett Wilson six years ago.

"He was a bit wild to produce as he was so sharp and hot, and he's taken time to gain confidence," said Beth, who is from Hereford and trained by David Pincus.

A collarbone comeback

RETIRED policewoman Julie Anthony admits she was the surprise winner of the medium restricted on Tigger, by Donatello, especially as she broke her









Leia McEvoy and Vic-Set book a ticket to Hartpury in the advanced medium restricted

collarbone eight weeks ago.

"I've never won anything like this, let alone had to wear a sash," said Julie, who bought her 10-year-old when he was 18 months old from an advertisement in the local paper.

Suzy Homewood and Royal Reflection claimed the open medium title, while Wayne Lightbown headed the elementary open on the Roh Magic-sired Real Magic. Wayne had been grounded until four days before the show as a horse had trodden on his foot, leaving it severely swollen.

Wayne, who trains with James Burtwell, is a grade IV para rider after a rotational fall while eventing left him unable to use his right hand. He rides with his hand attached by velcro to the rein.

"I run a haulage business and so dressage is a total hobby for me," he said.

Rebekah White, 21, who is head groom for Hannah Biggs, won her elementary restricted section on Shirley Errington's home-bred eight-year-old Lord Robin, who was in superb form following a few days' rest after the nationals. Nathan Aston and Ratinio headed the other section.

Tania Symes plaited up the nine-year-old Shaw Smartie, by Uptons Deli Circus, then turned him out for most of the day before winning her novice restricted section. This clearly worked, as he was "totally chilled", according to Tania. H&H



I OWE IT TO... A doctor's advice

A horse who suffered acute renal failure after an adverse reaction to medication finished second in the PSG, and is hoping for a wild card to the championships. Really Relevant's life was saved following medical advice from a doctor.

"I work for a consultant plastic surgeon, Simon Lee, and I burst into tears on the phone to him as my horse was so ill," said Jane Morris, who has owned the 11-year-old since he was backed. "When he heard that kidney dialysis is not available for horses, he suggested peritoneal dialysis, which is used to treat people in less developed countries.

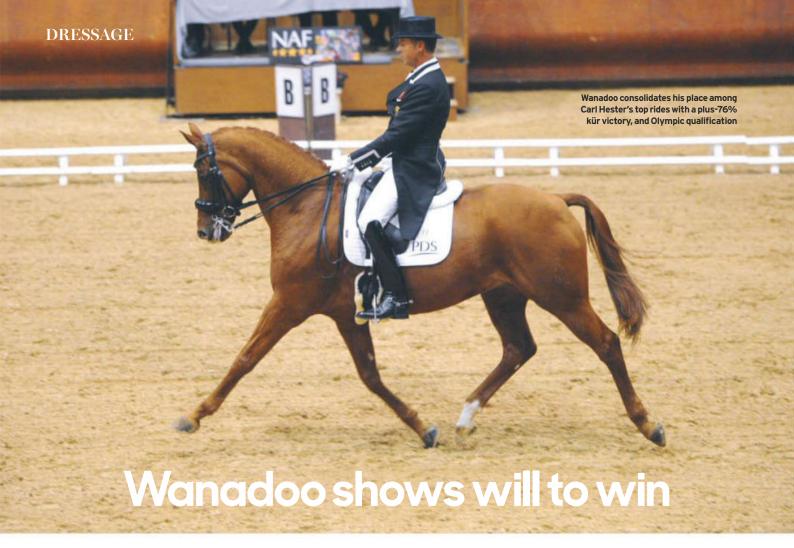
"The vets made a hole in Really Relevant's peritoneal cavity and the toxins were flushed out with a fluid containing glucose twice daily while he was supported by intravenous fluid.

"He had 10 flushes of 10 litres over five days and we were able to take him home three days later. He then had a month's rest and is now feeling like his old self.

"We have been to hell and back as a result of this medication. I urge people to investigate fully any suggested treatment as renal failure was not listed as a possible side-effect. I would have been devastated if something had happened to him."

RESULTS

Inter I AF (H Ashley, M Robley, J McGarrell Groves).—1, Dragonheart II (C Morgan) 67.63; 2, Zero (C Poole) 66.79; 3, Hey Arnold (N Phillips) 64.4 PSG AF (T Thorne, C Speer, J McGarrell Groves).—1, Bernini (L Guy) 67.93; 2, Really Relevant (J Morris) 67.06: 3, Sheepcote Casablanca (E Cotterill) 66.88. adv med 98Q (A Keen).– 1, Armstrong II (L Spencer) 65.13; 2, Amo (S Hext) 64.07; 3, Lalita (M Kent) N Burton).—1, Zantino II (B Barnett) 71.52; 2, JB Dukaat (J Bennett) 68.82; 3, Samarino (T JB Dukaat (J Bennett) 68.82; 3, Samarino (T Grantham) 67.79. rest (A Duck, A Anderson, N Goodman).—1, Vic-Set (L McEvoy) 72.25; 2, Serenity (C Jordaan) 70.58; 3, Show Boy (H Bailey) 69.06. med 61 (L Waller).—1, Donnaspirit (P Adams) 65.86; 2, Garfield Van HT Eelshof (M Harbour) 63.97. rest.—1, Schau Tanzerin (H James) 67.59; 2, Akehurst Ladies Man (C Springall) 65; 3, Michael Angelo (K Beddows) 63.1. med 69 AF (J Robinson, A Anderson, S Dickinson).—1 Royal Reflection (S Anderson, S Dickinson).—1, Royal Reflection (S Homewood) 70.5; 2, Wold Konig (K Lainsbury) 67.67; 3, Zandor Utopia (C Keevil) 67.27. rest (J Robinson, S Butterworth, G Leverell),-1. (G Robinson, 3 Dutter worth, 9 Everent, 1 Tigger (J Anthony) 67.12; 2, Donna Ravallino (W Hudson) 67.07; 3, Okey Dokey (S Harnett) 66.79. elem 43 rest (S Cumine).–1, Lord Robin (R White) 73.62; 2, Swanky (L Pilbeam) 69.14; 3, Rohdstar (J Clare) 68.96. elem 45 AF (S Cumine, C Gardiner, S Buttershaw).– 1, Real Magic (W Lightbown) 68.1; 2, Chiko II (N McGoldrick) 67.35; 3,The Silver Brumby (M O'Carroll) 67.18. rest sec A (T Thorne, D Cole, A Duck).—1, Lord Robin 69.66; 2, Gameboys Welcome (I Goodwin) 69.43; 3, Wellshead Foxtrot (S Lanz) 68.48. rest sec B (S Rowlands, R Stanier, S Oakley).— 1, Ratinio (N Aston) 71.66; 2, Slieve Bloom Clover (V Bailey) 70.28; 3, Cleo's Pride (N Roach) 69.25. nov 23 (S Cumine).— 1, Lackmore Galaxy (A Jordon) 70.37; 2, Marston Park Legacy (R Cook) 67.77; 3, Riverford Love Song (J Cuthbert) 64.63. rest.—I, Kilgreaney Samson (A Hegarty) 70.92; 2, Seagry Belmario (N Pearce) 68.88; 3, Croon Gravin (Z Bassett) 68.33. nov 38 AF (L Waller, L Baldwin, H Ashley).— 1, Westcroft Dragonfly (N Rumble) 70.69; 2, Dominique III (P Chatten) 70.32; 3, Walters Fable (A Corrie-Deane) 70. rest sec A (J Surr, D Cole, R Pickles).– 1, Rondo (L Farrant) 69.24; 2, Harley Hambly (G Hilldown) 69.03; 3, Tetouan (S Mitchell-Sheppard) 68.92. rest sec B (S Buttenshaw, J Burtwell, S Rowlands).- 1, Shaw Smartie (T Symes) 68.44; 2, Trafalgar (J Balfour) 68.28; 3, Irish Millennium (A Pearse) 68.11. prelim 3, Irish Millennium (A Pearse) 68.11. prelim 19 AF sec A (H Evelyn Wood, S Laurens, W Luke).—1, Kingthistle Darcy (G King) 71.06; 2, Hooky Gold (R Elliott) 69.39; 3, Prescoed Solomon (J Smithson) 69.34. sec B (D Collins, C Dicker, S Douglas-Osborn).—1, Urko II (L Hardman) 69.16; 2, Amazing Miss Maisy (L Moore) 68.1; 3, Minstrel Barney (T Ogden) 68.1. prelim 15 rest (S Cumine).—1, Nant Garadig Tomahawk (I Sanderson) 79.13; 2, Dylan X (R Yeomans) 70.87; 3, Knockanroe Spirit (J Raven) 70.21. Raven) 70.21.



Saumur CDI3*, France

25-27 September

By Margaret Benson

ARL HESTER and his latest protégé, Wanadoo, found form in the autumn sunshine and claimed victory in the grand prix kür with 76.75% at the first indoor show of the season.

The competition, held in the stunning Grand Manège of the Ecole National d'Equitation – home of the prestigious Cadre Noir – was only the second international show for the 14-year-old chestnut gelding by Wolkenstein II.

On the first day of competition, many horses in the 37-strong grand prix were overwhelmed by the atmosphere in the vast amphitheatre, resulting in tension and below-par scores. Wanadoo was no exception and became insecure and hesitant, making uncharacteristic mistakes, particularly in the canter work, which dropped the combination to fourth.

"He took me by surprise in the grand prix as normally he is so secure in the work, but in the kür thankfully he was back to his normal confident and relaxed way of going," said Carl.

In the prize-giving Wanadoo was completely composed and self-assured.

"He is never upset by crowds, noise or other horses playing up," added Carl. "He is like Valegro in that respect."

Wanadoo is now qualified for next year's Olympics and Carl will run him alongside Nip Tuck in the build-up to Rio.

The seasoned and consistent duo of Britain-based Dane Anders Dahl and Wie Atlantico De Ymas headed the leaderboard in the grand prix, but were relegated to second in the grand prix kür with 76.02% by Wanadoo, who was last to go.

Anders used Nicole Pendzich's Music for Dressage website for their fabulous upbeat Latin American compilation.

"He is stronger and better this year than he has ever been," said Anders of the son of Wie Weltmeyer, who was contesting his 54th international grand prix. "The music is an old freestyle but totally suits him so in view of his age – 16 – we will keep it."

Ross consolidates progress

ANNA ROSS was rewarded for her patience and dedication to Die Callas, a stunning black mare with a quirky personality. The pair scored 70.52% in the grand prix special to stand a close second to German combination Stephan Koeberle and Darjeeling 5, who posted 70.88%.

Although the De Niro mare had been a little tense and nervous in the grand prix, the combination earned their first pair of nines, awarded for the trot half-passes, for a commendable seventh.

The mare has boundless energy and enthusiasm, which can be a bonus or a curse.

"She is a strong character but so am I," said H&H columnist Anna. "I can't let it become a battle of wills; I have to find a way round it. We have come a long way from the beginning of the season, when she felt like a small tour horse riding grand prix.

"In the special she was much more rideable. I aimed for a

RESULTS
PSG. – 1, Carstenwaard (S de Frei) NED 70.42;
2, Warhol (F Hologne Joux) BEL 70.23; 3,
Super Blue (C Hutton) GBR 69.23; 5, DJ (M
Griffin) GBR 68.21; 7, Dimaggik (B Martin)
GBR 67.89; 9, Waldessarini (N Begovic) GBR
67.34; 14, Rokoko (S Rogers) GBR 66.13. inter
I.—1, Warhol 71.34; 2, Super Blue 70.78; 3,
DJ 69.52; 8, Waldessarini 67.47; 11, Dimaggik
66.76; 18, Rokoko 63.57. inter I kür.—1,
Warhol 75.12; 2, Super Blue 72.12; 3, DJ 71.5;
7, Dimaggik 67.95. inter B.—1, Vallantieno
(F Godelle) FRA 68.33; 2, Gotcha (C Pottier)
FRA 67.85; 4, Excalibur (M Hicks) GBR 67.35;
10, Walnut (M Hicks) 65.07; 11, Habanera (S
Rogers) 65.02. inter II.—1, Vallantieno 69.78;
2, Gotcha 68.5; 3, Deborah (J Coenegrachts)

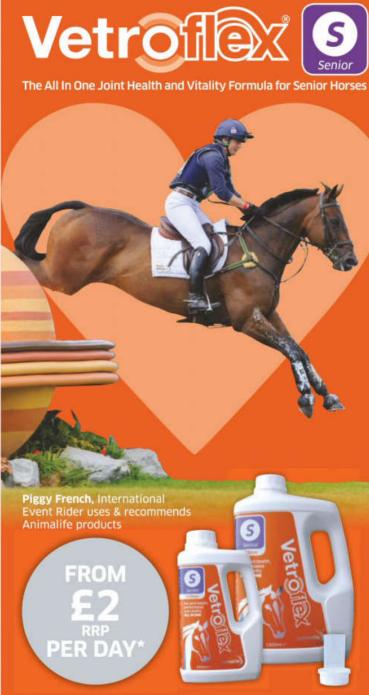
smooth, relaxed test and that is what I got. My job in the next six months is to consolidate the work, balance her excessive power and give her good experiences."

Henriette Andersen and Warlocks Charm finished the weekend with a secure plus-74% fourth place in the kür. The previous day's grand prix had looked like a high-scoring, fault-free test until the horse suddenly stopped on the final centre line and ran backwards at X, instead of going into piaffe, an expensive reaction which pushed them down the rankings.

"It was going so well up until then," said Henriette. "He isn't spooky indoors but can get a little nervous about the piaffe in a test. I will use the kür to regain his confidence, which is what he needs." H&H

BEL 67.39; 11, Walnut 65.18; 12, Habanera 65.15; 16, Excalibur 64.28. GP. – 1, Wie Atlantico De Ymas (A Dahl)
DEN 70.92; 2, Girasol (M Barbançon) ESP 70.88; 3, Spirit Of The Age (B Brune) GER 69.8; 4, Wanadoo (C Hester) GBR 69.66; 7, Die Callas (A Ross) GBR 68.48; 8eq, Rubins Nite (H Watson-Greaves) GBR & Ambience (R Tong) IRL 68.26; 12, Warlocks Charm (H Andersen) GBR 67.7; 22, Bubblingh (R Davison) GBR 65. GP special. – 1, Darjeeling 5 (S Koeberle) GER 70.88; 2, Die Callas 70.52; 3, Currency DC (S Dutta) USA 69.25; 14, Bubblingh 64.49. GP kür. – 1, Wanadoo 76.75; 2, Wie Atlantico De Ymas 76.02; 3, Finckenstein (R Svane) DEN 75; 4, Warlocks Charm 74.17; 6, Rubins Nite 74.05.





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Norfolk collects a clutch of tickets



Norfolk Collection dominate the prelim and novice classes to head the open section

Team Quest Eastern Regionals, Easton & Otley College, Norfolk

27 September

By Helen Triggs

LASSICAL dressage trainer Nerys Leer qualified three teams for the championships, with a fourth, the Leer Jets, missing out by just 0.3%.

Nerys' senior winning team was the Norfolk Collection – a group of four ladies all in their first year of Team Quest competition. They took the first three places in the senior prelim class, which was won on 73.54% by Cheryl Hunt and Rouvin, a five-year-old Oldenburg. Mandy Bradley's Glenaraneen Boy took second.

Food and restaurant consultant Celia Stone, with the Irish mare Puddingbag Lane, was third with a personal best of 72.08%. The mare has been evented and showjumped by her teenage daughter and this is Celia's first year of competitive dressage. The fourth team horse, Camilla Jewiss' German warmblood Luca 192, who won the senior novice class with 72.5%, has had a good year so far. He has qualified for the Area Festivals at medium and also went to the regionals at elementary level.

"If Nerys didn't support and encourage us, we couldn't have done this," said Cheryl.

Nerys' winning British Young Rider Dressage Scheme (BYRDS) team, the Norfolk Divas, were last year's under-16 champions, although Sophie Mann and Danesfort Boy was the only combination remaining.

Abbie Richards (Mulvin On The Ball) and Rhiannon Trenton (Tyddyncochyn Sparton) both scored over 70% in their prelim tests and team captain of the Divas, Abby Palmer with The Touch Of Frost, scored 74.3% in the prelim to seal victory. She then competed in the novice as a late replacement for the Norfolk Darlings team, also trained by Nerys, helping them to a

qualifying second place.

Frostie is a 19-year-old eventer who has recently taken to dressage.

"He was on fine form today – you can tell he's going to be good when he's badly behaved to handle," said Abby.

The youngest winner of the day was 11-year-old Sofia Reeves and her 20-year-old Welsh Section C, Tyssul Catrina. They won the intro class, contributing to a qualifying place for her team, the Beds Byrdies.

RESULTS

TO teams. - 1. Norfolk Collection (Rouvin, C. Hunt; Glenaraneen Boy, M Bradley; Puddingbag Lane, C Stone: Luca 192, C Jewiss) 218,54; 2, Bayford Hall Bravehearts (Sky Hermosa, K Jones; Uswin, L Sturman; Kermit, M Macallister; Full Of Spirit, K Ballard) 209.78; 3, Stansted Riding Club (Sienna III, D Bond; Leave It To Me, S Murray: Lordships Supersonic . F Murray: Talponciau Last Symphony, K White) 203.13. TO BYRDS. - 1. Norfolk Divas (The Touch Of Frost, A Palmer; Mulvin On The Ball, A Richards; Tyddyncochyn Sparton, R Trenton; Danesfort Boy, S Mann) 215.43; 2, Norfolk Darlings (Keizer, L Matthews-Cook; Kas Silvana, I Matthews-Cook; Where To Now, E James; The Touch Of Frost) 213.34; 3, Beds Byrdies (Tyssul Catrina, S Reeves: Delphi Dazzler, G Rapley; Blue P, S Wuidart; Tickerlevan Sparkey, A. Jackson) 212.81.

Rule Britannia!

Team Quest Northern Regionals, Port Royal, East Yorks

26 September

By Jo Prestwich

RITANNIA Babes produced an impressive victory in Port Royal's regional final, having to field just three members and so having no discard score.

"We had five to start with but we've been blighted by injuries and operations," explained team captain Angela Pearson, who rode her own ex-racehorse Holmesies. "Helen Kinsella was due to ride but her horse had to have an emergency operation to remove a cyst, and Greer Smith's horse had to have a scan."

Angela was joined by Louise Atkinson with her Friesian stallion Hendrik Fan Arummieden and Caroline Tough with Trevoulter Silver Republica.

"We are all members of South



The Britannia Babes (centre) top the podium despite competing with just three riders, with Team Spanks (right) in second and Bounced Back (left) taking third position

Durham Saddle Club and do a bit of everything, with dressage being our main interest," added Angela. "This has been great fun and hats off to Port Royal. They did a superb job; we loved the podium for the prize-giving."

The winning British Young

Riders Dressage Scheme (BYRDS) team, Half Pass 4, should perhaps have been Half Pass 3 as, like the open winners, they had only three riders. Neve Rotherham, Lucy Benson and Katie Willerton are all members of Scunthorpe and District Pony Club and tried dressage as a way of getting going with horses after moving up from ponies.

"Lucy moved onto Zsa Zsa Zsu last year after her pony went lame," said team captain Louisa Lissiak. "She found it quite a big step up so did a bit of dressage while she got to know her, and thought why not try Team Quest.

"Neve was in the same boat and it has really captured their imagination. They haven't been to many qualifiers due to exams; this is their best result."

RESULTS

TQ teams.— 1, Britannia Babes (Hendrik Fan Arummieden, L Atkinson; Trevoulter Silver Republica, C Tough; Holmesies, A Pearson) 215.1; 2, Team Spanks (Amigo, S Grimes; Amigo, N Butters; Fragil Rock, P Holroyd; Its Orrid Enri, K Appleyard) 212.3; 3, Bounced Back (Townend Stardust, H Brown; Thornbeck Andrew, V Parker; Broxdown Barracus, A Ferrier; Townend Stardust, V Brown) 211.24. TQ BYRDS.— 1, Half Pass 4 (Little Jose II, N Rotherham; Zsa Zsa Zsu, L Benson; Coumroe Mist, K Willerton) 199.67; 2, Make Our Dream (Dolly Mixture, M Whitham; Singing Lantana III, A Clarke; Dolly Mixture, K Truelove; Pinocchio, E McCoy) 199.59; 3, Irish Farm Fillies (Ballinamurra Scobby, S Razzaq; Jasmine IX, H Bedford; Kildrum, K Pearson) 198.34.



Dani Sibbald celebrates her 18th birthday by helping the Pembrokeshire Bays to open victory and the Pembrokeshire Lunachicks to a BYRDS win with Master Rockafella

Sibbald has double cause for celebration

Team Quest Wales Regionals, Moor Farm, Pembs

26 September

By Andrea Oakes

HE Pembrokeshire Bays took team honours. providing the first of the day's celebrations for team member Dani Sibbald.

Dani was also on the winning BYRDS team, the Pembrokeshire Lunachicks, and she turned 18 on

"Everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' to me on the podium," said Dani, who described her double win as a perfect present.

Dani posted a 74.16% prelim score with Master Rockafella to help the four bays to overall team victory. She explained that the 15hh Arab-Welsh section D gelding, whose breeding was accidental, suffered colic before last year's Team Quest final.

"I ended up riding my teammate Katy Griffiths' horse, KS Panache, and we finished eighth overall [in the under-25s]," said Dani. "It would be such an honour to ride Rocky there this year."

Dani, who is studying maths and sciences - "all the nerdy subjects" - for A levels, added: "My trainer Brendan Tegg has been wonderful, explaining everything so well."

Brendan can also take credit for team runners-up, BT's Muppets. He trains all four of them, including his sister, showjumper Helen, who was riding her 11hh rescue pony Broomells Surtees.

Helen found herself bidding for the little spotted stallion nine years ago while buying another horse for someone at a sale.

"He was the cutest thing I'd

ever seen," she said. "He was too nervous to drive, as planned, so we started dressage. He moves like a 16hh warmblood "

Charlie Hunt achieved the day's highest score - 74.37% - in the prelim on Isaura Van T Ceusterhof, to put The Pembrokeshire Lunachicks ahead.

BYRDS team runners-up The Cabin Crew were without key member Katy George when she was sidelined with an injury after a yard mishap the evening before.

"We had Copybush Park Royal, an ex-show pony being retrained, and Magical Mayhem who is known as a typical ginger mare," said Pat Richards, whose daughter Cerys rode an impressive novice test for the last time on her now-outgrown 12hh Ioan pony Bryndefaid Angus.

"They were a team of three with no drop score, but they really pulled it off." H&H

RESULTS

Intro B TQ (M George).— 1, Whyme (R Barker) 67.82; 2, Riticvalley Blue Topaz (E Hayes) 66.74; 3eq, Rhostyddyn Catherine Elizabeth (A Harrison) & Sheepcote Catkin (D Smith) 66.73. prelim 18 TQ (S Frost).— 1, Isaura Van T Ceusterhof (C Hunt) 74.37: 2. Master Rockafella (D Sibbald) 74.16; 3, Broomells Surtees (H Tegg) 72.5. nov 34 TQ (M George).- 1, Brynawel Peter (J Ridge) 70.41; 2, Bryndefaid Angus (C Richards) 68.33; 3, Master Rockafella 67.7. **TQ teams.**– 1, Pembrokeshire Bays (Donna Diva, L Kennedy; Skellorn Oliver, J Griffiths; KS Panache, K Griffiths; Master Rockafella, D Sibbald) 217.07; 2, BT's Muppets (Tom The Bomb, S Burke; DST Bulgari, D Dickson; Divine Remus Of Cape Kim, K Davies; Broomells Surtees, H Tegg) 211.45; 3, Sinai Hoof Tappers (Independent Rufus, C Barnes; Balder Van't Keizershof, S Canning; Sinai Othello, A Stansfield; Pandemonium I, P Lyster) 209.16. TO BYRDS - 1. Pembrokeshire Lunachicks (Riticvalley Blue Topaz, E Hayes; Isaura Van T Ceusterhof, C Hunt; Abergavenny X-factor, G Randles; Master Rockafella, D Sibbald) 209.36; 2, The Cabin Crew (Copybush Park Royal, A Johnson; Magical Mayhem, C Clarkson; Bryndefaid Angus, C Richards) 198.57; 3, Moor Farm Muppets (Spider, G Jervis; Bobby Bouncer, B Jones; Coombe Park Sailors Star, A Ridge; Nolton Madrigal, W Ridge) 191.06.

COMMENT

Carl Hester



Showcase our future stars

OW nice to see decent crowds at our national championships. For me this year's highlight was the Shearwater potential international dressage horse finals, not only for the quality but also for the wonderful test rider Eva Möller, wife of Dr Ulf Möller and herself a young horse specialist and world champion. An unbiased and brilliant test rider made for superb viewing. She got the best out of all the horses she rode and it was sublime to watch.

Well done to Becky Moody who cracked 80% in the inter I freestyle on Carinsio, who we hope to see at grand prix soon.

The show schedule is very professional, however I think it would be an improvement to run just one masterclass. While people do enjoy a lecture demo, they're there for the competition. The second masterclass was particularly disruptive during the grand prix freestyle as there were only nine in it. This is the highlight of the show; shouldn't the prize-giving be done before half the spectators head home?

The subject of wild cards

AT all levels up to inter I, allocation of wild cards is based on scores from the regionals. In this year's grand prix however, 15 started from 18 entries and with 10 qualifying for the freestyle only nine competed.

Where was the youth of today who could be the stars of tomorrow? With the new under-25 Europeans next year how about giving some of these riders wild cards? Myyoung rider Amy Woodhead scored 69% and 70% at two Premier Leagues but no wild card for her.

Apparently there is something called selector's choice. My proposal to British Dressage (BD) would be to make sure all who could contest the grand prix be sent for review and handpicked. It seems there was a trick missed to boost the importance

of this class in showcasing future talent.

I'd also propose that the public would like to see all our European riders at the nationals - ponies to medium, juniors to advanced medium and young riders to prix st georges. The rounds of training and group sessions they take part in sometimes mean it is impossible for them to qualify for the nationals as well. These are our team members and they should be first in the queue.

An idea many competitors want me to put forward is to split the warm-up area in half for the grand prix. With the concentration and effort needed it would be helpful if there were no wobbly young horses to keep an eye out for.

Appreciate the effort

IT was fun for our pony and senior European medallists to be driven around with a flag, but I feel the juniors and young riders who didn't win medals but gave as much of their time - and whose parents invested in the effort — should get a round too. After all, it's only recently we've had medals to appreciate.

A feast for dressage lovers RICHARD DAVISON and I are looking forward to the Dressage Convention at Bury Farm on 17-18 October.

Fiona Bigwood will show off Atterupgaards Orthilia, who I and others consider a future medal horse. Stephen Clarke is never to be missed and, for those who remember the legendary Dr Reiner Klimke, we're excited to have his son Michael, an international rider known for his outspoken views, as well as Tristan Tucker who wowed the Global Dressage Forum three years ago with his methods for helping horses cope with the competition environment. It'll be a real feast for all dressage lovers. See you there! H&H NEXT WEEK: Pammy Hutton



Savoir Faire knows just what to do

Cherif Championship, Bucks

16 September

By Tricia Johnson

RODUCER Sam Quiney and the Pattersons' elegant 158cm victor Bankswood Savoir Faire (Saffy) outshone a high-class field to take a first Cherif supreme title for the team, the owners and the horse. Sadly, usual rider Hayley
Patterson was forced to forego
her Cherif debut due to a nasty
bout of mumps, but Sam proved
an able deputy to earn the highest
overall marks of the day. This was
Sam's first time as a competitor
too, although having ride-judged
here two years ago, she knew
what had to be done.

The lovely Comberton Cadet six-year-old, bred by Annie Eccles

and the late Chris Sandison out of the prolific mare Fairlyn Finesse, last competed here as a two-yearold, when she was third with Mark Tamplin. This time, she performed to the manner born and her soft, uphill paces – together with impeccable manners – won over many new fans as well as the three judges.

Simon Carter, officiating for the first time, said: "Our champion

oozed quality and had such a rhythmical way of going – she stood out from the rest. The standard was very high but the temperament of such a young horse in this environment was refreshing to see – she has a huge future ahead of her."

Saffy was bought last October by the Northern Ireland-based Patterson family to contest partbred Arab classes and also







as this was her first and last Cherif appearance with this pony as he is now retiring from top-flight competition.

Sadly, the same attention to detail was absent from many other performances. As Kinvara rightly said, the show was not unduly difficult but riding a straight line across the centre of the arena, with a simple change through trot, proved impossible for those obviously more accustomed to cantering across the diagonal. Many marks were needlessly thrown away by such inaccuracies.

Pulling out all the stops in the supreme paid off for 153cm class runners-up, Sophie Hall and Binghams Toy Story, who stood third overall with a smooth, welltimed and accurate display to triumph over other class winners.

Sharlen struts his stuff

THE on-form partnership of hairdresser Amy Bosworth and her home-produced six-year-old Sharlen Royal Enclosure headed the 153cm class, going on to claim the Country Code ridden amateur title. Since joining Amy on loan in

introduce Hayley to hack ranks.

This proved a wise move as in addition to racking up some impressive part-bred results, the new partnership's hack successes have included wins at North of England Spring and Summer shows, plus titles at Cheshire Premier and Staffordshire Country Festival. They finished fifth at Royal International and gained their Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) ticket at New Forest.

"We were only given one minute to perform a show in the supreme and we realised that it didn't give much time to mess about," said Sam. "I decided we had to do very tight turns and dramatic canter to halts to stay within the time, and Saffy

obliged as always.

"She is the most laid-back horse to do – she's never any different at home to at a show, and always tries her very best."

A bittersweet win KINVARA GARNER had already earned a late 13th birthday present when the Edmondsons' mannerly Sycamore Candyman posted the highest ride and show scores of the day, dropping only one mark in each category to head the 148cm class. They then crowned their day with a superpolished show to stand reserve.

Although this was a first ride here for Kinvara, the 14-year-old chestnut has been a regular Cherif contender, and last won this class in 2007 for the

> Gallagher family. He was also second for Amy Cook as well as current owner Meg Edmondson, but this was his best overall result to date.

Since taking over the ride in February, Kinvara has had a great season, although narrowly

missed out on a HOYS ticket – once on joint marks. Here, her determination to get it right was plain to see.

"I didn't think the set show was particularly difficult, but I studied it hard to make sure I got it spoton," said Kinvara, whose birthday was the previous week.

It was a poignant moment, too,



IN THE GENES

Rhos relations

TEAM Harvey had a memorable day with two closely related HOYS-qualified show ponies. The exciting four-year-old Rhos Envoy — a full-brother to former Cherif champion Rhos Emperor, also then four — headed the 138cm class, and the HOYS part-bred qualifier went to the seven-year-old Rhos Exception (pictured above), both beautifully ridden by Ellis Taverner-Burns.

Both are by Derwent Rainbow Bandit and their dams, Rhos Eloise and Rhos Eloquence respectively, are full-sisters.

Rhos Exception then added to the haul by taking the in-hand senior 148cm title and standing second reserve for the Dalton in-hand supreme.

"We always bring our four-year-olds here as it's a lovely show and a good practise for HOYS," said producer John Harvey. "We only decided to bring Exception because she hadn't been shown since Hickstead, so her HOYS ticket in the part-bred class was a massive bonus."

'We were only

givenone

minute to do

a show and it

didn't give time

to mess about'

Sam Quinev

on performing in the supreme



James Crockford celebrates his 22nd birthday by clinching the in-hand supreme with yearling Stanley Grange Royal Silk, who is destined to become a small hack

'Riders should

not forget that

a good gallop

canbumpup

their marks'

Pony judge Sarah Gwilliam

on how riders can make

every mark count

May, "Stan" has garnered a string of accolades in part-bred and hack ranks, including standing runner-up at Hickstead in the former and landing the Great

Yorkshire title as the latter. He is also due to debut at HOYS as an intermediate as well as a hack.

"For a baby, he's just amazing," said Amy. "We've never been here before so for him to win in such experienced company is wonderful."

Amy was quick to acknowledge the help she receives from her mother, Roz. "I work full time and live an hour away from the yard, so Mum keeps everything ticking over — I couldn't do it without her."

From the other end of the experience scale, Zoe Whittle stood amateur reserve with her regular Cherif campaigner and former SEIB Search For A Star riding horse victor, the over-158cm winner Mettlewood Mr Fahrenheit. Boltonbased Zoe has owned the nineyear-old since he was two, and was also reserve amateur here in 2011.

"He's just a joy to have and be around," said Zoe, who works full time in her husband's company and enjoys showing purely as a hobby.

Birthday success

STANLEY GRANGE breeding loomed large in the well-supported in-hand sections. The Dalton Stud supreme title went to yet more Cherif debutantes, birthday boy James Crockford – 22 on the day – and

Jane and Sarah Carey's elegant yearling Stanley Grange Royal Silk, reserve part-bred Arab at the Royal Highland and over-148cm junior champion here.

> "We were up against some very strong competition," said James. "But 'Georgina' is a great mover and has a lovely, laid-back temperament. She is destined to be a small hack for Sarah to ride."

Cherif regular Alan Charlesworth stood

reserve with another for the Careys – their home-bred twoyear-old 148cm junior champion, Ecclesbourne Byron Bay, also by Kilvington Scoundrel but out of last year's supreme here, Stanley Grange Eclipse, who was senior champion again this time. H&H

JUDGE'S VIEW

Pony ride judge Sarah Gwilliam

"I was a little disappointed that so few managed to do the individual show they were given," said Sarah, officiating here for the first time.

"It wasn't overly technical and some lost valuable marks for this — for example breaking canter early and running into their transitions.

"Riders really need to take advantage of this and remember every mark counts. They should also not forget that a good gallop can bump up their marks."

COMMENT

Katie Jerram



'Are showing riders ageist?'

RE showing riders ageist? This year's British Show Horse Association (BSHA) national championships, where Jordan Cook took the first night's supreme on his 16-year-old small hack, Fleetwater Xecutive, has made me wonder.

When a horse wins major championships early in his career, it's a thrill — but the longer he goes on taking top honours, the more protective you become. I've retired superstars from the ring when I knew they were as good as ever, but was worried judges were bored with seeing them.

This hasn't been for my or their owners' sakes, but because I haven't wanted horses to be overlooked when they really didn't deserve it. Do I regret it? Sometimes.

But every so often, a horse just goes on getting better. I know the unique environment of Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) means its results often defy the formbook, but I also know whom my money is on for the hack championship.

It's always moving when a horse is officially retired from competition. There can't have been many dry eyes at the championships when Stephen Norris left the ring for the last time on the 21-year-old cob, Waterford. Here was another lesson — Waterford has apparently always been hunted and shown and the variety must have helped him keep his zest for life.

The model down under

I would love to see the supreme riddens staged the way they do it at the Australia Grand National Championships, with all the competitors called in for an initial walk-round, then sent out and brought back individually to give their shows. Riders get the whole

ring to show what they can do and spectators get extra entertainment value.

This system also creates equal opportunities. All this year's contenders behaved well, but when you have seven horses waiting to perform, it's a long time for the last-to-go to wait and I don't see the point in creating needless stress.

I've heard some riders talk about our national championships as a dress rehearsal for HOYS, but that undervalues a show of which we should all be proud and one that, for many, is the highlight of the showing year. There were quality horses down the line on all four days, and a huge number of entries.

Surprisingly, there were few M&Ms. Perhaps some owners didn't realise there was a Cuddy final place at stake. The BSHA committee worked hard to put everything they had been asked for on the schedule, so hopefully next year, numbers will improve.

The Martin Woods in-hand championship, with £1,000 to the winner, is such an encouragement to breeders, youngstock owners and producers. Similarly, the classes for amateur owners and riders showcased some impressive combinations who must have nothing to fear from professionals.

Important engagements

SOCIETY annual meetings lie ahead. Please go if you can: they're your best chance to bring up anything you want discussed. I have to miss two, as I'll be judging in New Zealand, but I am sending deputies!

Good luck, all HOYS contenders. Whatever your results, you've achieved what many riders can only dream of by getting there, so make the most of it. H&H

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BSPS Scotland Finale, Ayrshire

19 September

By Melanie Scott

ESPITE the lateness of the hour, the British Show Pony Society (BSPS) Scotland Finale overall supreme went to the mini champion, Jennifer Green's elegant lead-rein pony, Gwynrhosyn Demelza.

This charming Welsh section A mare, ridden by Jennifer's six-year-old daughter Rebecca Green, was shown in the ring by producer Charlie Cousens to take the mini Heritage title.

"She's a perfect lead-rein pony – push-button, very easy and safe," said Jennifer, who has owned the nine-year-old pony for five years.

Gwynrhosyn Demelza has had a tremendous year with five championships to his name this season, most recently standing champion at Blair Castle and supreme at Turriff.

Judged by Kathleen Scott, Justine Armstrong-Small and Helen Metcalf, the grey produced a smart, workmanlike freestyle show to win the overall title.

"It just said: 'Look at me,'"
explained Kathleen. "I'm looking
for an eye-catching, elegant pony.
It must have a good walk and
scream out what it is, and needs
to be a good example of its type."

Additionally Rebecca topped the tiny tots first ridden class with Thistledown Lavender, in her first class off the lead rein.



Demelza maintains impeccable form

The novice supreme mountain and moorland (M&M) title went to a young Fell stallion, Greenholme Emblem, ridden by Kirsty Aird and owned by Gwen Rae. This five-year-old by Greenholme Look At Me and out of Greenholme Sasha was

purchased as a semi-feral yearling from his breeder Bill Potter straight off the hills.

"This is Emblem's first year of ridden classes," said Gwen. "He is a licensed stallion and has foals due next year."

The pair won the Durgarvel four, five and six-year-old championship at the National Pony Society (NPS) Summer Championships at Malvern and stood champion at the BSPS Scotland Spring Show.

They were overall novice supreme here after heading a strong section of novice M&Ms with Jean Carnegie's Eran Of Croila, ridden by Lynn Paisley, in reserve.

The Kyle Of Croila five-year-old mouse dun Highland stallion was bought from his breeder, the late Cameron Ormiston, as a yearling.

"This was only Eran of Croila's third ridden show – he's not been rushed," said Jean.

Jill Dolan's lead-rein pony Barkway Minstrel, ridden by her son Alfie Dolan-McLaughlan, stood reserve mini supreme.

"This is Alfie's last year of lead-

rein classes and we've qualified for Horse of the Year Show (HOYS)," said Jill.

Show classes started at 7am and ran right through to the supreme at 11pm, with the direct Olympia M&M qualifier and Royal International Horse Show hunter classes kicking off proceedings. Although numbers in both sections were disappointing, the judges felt the top end of the classes were full of quality.

Timber shows substance

THE Olympia qualifier champion was Sandra Burton with the Connemara winner Banks Timber, owned by the Cloonisle Stud in Ireland.

Bred in Denmark, the Teglstrup Duke seven-year-old was sold to Ireland as a two-year-old.

"He was being used for breeding and shown in-hand until he arrived at my yard last October," explained Sandra.

"He was unbroken but proved very easy to break. He won his Picton final at NPS Malvern. He gives a lovely ride, and is a big-striding pony."



Five-year-old Fell stallion Greenholme Emblem, who was purchased straight off the hills as a 'semi-feral' yearling, stands novice M&M supreme with Kirsty Aird

Sandra explained she decided to aim for the Olympia qualifier as she felt the pony would have more ring experience by then and also thought the show format was less busy.

Ride judge Kathleen Scott said: "It had a beautiful, natural way of going, very balanced and correct. It was a very good example of its breed with lovely pony qualities."

"I thought the championship was strong," added conformation judge Peter Boustead. "Our Just winner had quite a bit of substance but was still a proper pony."

Sarah Parker has headed this qualifier the past two years, but stood reserve this time on Patrick Hall's Welsh section C, Menai Thomas.

"We purchased him as an unhandled two-year-old colt nine years ago," said Patrick. "Sarah has broken and produced him since

then and always said he'd go to the top."

In 2012 the Talon Tomos-sired stallion was fourth and best of breed at Olympia. More recently they were supreme at the BSPS Summer Championships and have twice stood champion ridden section C at the Royal Welsh Show.

"Our reserve performed well and moved freely," added Kathleen.

"This is his first year of open

workers and he's qualified for HOYS in flat and worker classes," smiled Sarah, who has 15 ponies qualified for HOYS. "Thomas loves life and is a really happy, cheeky boy – he makes me smile every day."

Dancer has the moves

NUMBERS forward for the RIHS hunter qualifying classes were low, with just one middleweight and heavyweight entry. Judge Justine Armstrong-Small selected Susan Carr's middleweight victor Primitive

> Dancer, ridden by Kirstine Douglas, for the overall title.

> "My champion gave me a lovely ride and had an effortless way of going," said Justine.

Runner-up at HOYS last term, the Primitive Star eightyear-old dark bay mare is in her second season with Kirstine.

"I bought her

originally for myself to show and hunt with the Dumfriesshire and Stewartry," said Susan. "After HOYS she'll have a holiday then some hunting; I've hunted her more times than I've shown her.

"Last month at the Sport Horse Breeding supreme championship show she gained enough points to gain entry to their head studbook," continued Susan.

"Dancer is a lovely mare, very willing and comes out and tries every time," said Kirstine.

beautiful,

natural way of

going, was very

balanced and

correct. A good

example of its

breed'

Ride judge Kathleen Scott

on Connemara Banks Timber,

who topped the Olympia qualifier

Seven-year-old Connemara Banks Timber – bred in Denmark and by Teglstrup Duke – impresses the judges to clinch the Olympia qualifier with Sandra Burton

FIRST WIN

...in new gold cup class for Freckleton Maximus

THE inaugural gold cup competition was well received, with riders receiving a combined score from their working hunter and performance classes. Standing champion was Philippa Weir aboard Alex Brewster's former HOYS winner Freckleton Maximus.

The pair already have their HOYS ticket secured, and were part of the second placed Scotland White team at the recent working hunter pony international, held at the BSPS Summer Championships.



'A lovely ride with an effortless way of going' – judge Justine Armstrong-Small praises Primitive Dancer, who stands overall RIHS hunter champion ridden by Kirstine Douglas

Reserve was Kirsty Aird on Fiona Laing's working hunter victor Oulart Pasquellino.

From five forward there were four clears over Graham Barclay's track, which certainly needed jumping. A double at fence five consisted of a hedge to a hen house and looked challenging, but proved otherwise and initial concerns over a dogleg from the penultimate fence to the final oxer near the entrance again were unfounded.

"I thought the course was well built and up to height," assessed Justine. "My reserve jumped a super round and again gave me a lovely ride. For an older horse he has good limbs and deserved to win."

The 13-year-old Irish-bred Pasquellino was bought as a four-year-old from Mark and Tanya Kyle in Leicestershire for Fiona's daughter, Rebecca, to event. The gelding evented to intermediate level under the name Just Jackson and now goes hunting with Fiona.

"He lives with Fiona and we meet up at shows," said Kirsty. "It was a big bold track and it suited him, just like the course at the Royal International where he was reserve."

The lightweight victor was Gillian and Andrew McCowan's Tredragon.

"He's a very sane, kind horse – anyone can work with him," said Gillian. "He's won three championships from five outings this year."

The sole heavyweight forward was Mugs Montgomery's Otis, ridden by Scott McLellan. The 12-year-old, with a HOYS ticket already secured at the Scottish Horse Show, hunts with the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire with his owner.

Richard Telford accounted for the small qualifier with Lauren Mercer's Embla Boatman.

Taking the amateur class was Sophie Lane-Keery riding Conspiracy Theory. The ladies' hunter has twice been third at HOYS and qualified again this year at Derbyshire Festival. H&H



West Norfolk

THE West Norfolk made a very early start to the season on the 29 August at Hall Farm, Necton, courtesy of Edward Spratt.

Largely hounds were tentatively picking their way around many standing beans and the odd field of wheat as landowners hosted a morning prior to the release of game. It is always pleasing to see the excitement on children's faces, clearly having dragged their parents out of bed to squeeze a morning in prior to term time.

A late, wet harvest led to a slow start to the season although on the plus side, root crops such as sugar beet have grown to such a height as to allow the young hounds plenty of covert to get amongst.

Particularly pleasing was to watch the athletic entry of 12 couples – partly sired by our own Striker 11 out of Gaslight 10 – already covering large Norfolk acreages of roots with speed and drive!

East Anglia, and the fens in particular, is riding wetter this time than it has for many seasons. Hounds are hunting four mornings a week, with more country becoming available in many new locations by way of shoot and land ownership changes.

In the past week, hounds have

enjoyed a better scenting start to autumn hunting than usual, and, if recent form as exhibited at Panworth Hall, Ashill – courtesy of Sir David Ralli – is anything to go by, we eagerly anticipate a fast running season ahead! **CGC**

South Herefordshire

AUTUMN hunting started for the South Herefordshire on Tuesday, 8 September, with hounds being hunted by new joint-master and huntsman Paul Oliver, who has moved from the Western Hunt in Cornwall.

The start of the season was two weeks later than hoped due to poor weather conditions causing a late harvest.

Luckily, the first morning was held over joint-master Major Patrick Darling's near Ross-on-Wye. He is always more than accommodating, no matter what the weather, or if there are standing crops or grazing stock.

With many packs in the surrounding area still not started, we were well attended with plenty of visitors, and this is continuing most mornings with a good number of mounted followers.

With a small entry of young hounds this year we have managed to get them all out regularly, helping to get them used to horses, the noise of the hunting field and working as a



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STAGHOUNDS

Devon & Somerset.—1 Oct, Pitcombe Head; 3, Kings Farm, Withypool; 6, Higher Melcombe, Exford; 8, Five Cross Way, Dulverton; 10, Larkbarrow Corner, 11am.

BLOODHOUNDS

armers. – 4 Oct, Lessor Grange, Milcombe, Banbury; 11, Park Farm, Stowe, 10.30am.

from all the followers and supporters of the hunt (and a very large Ordnance Survey map) has enabled Paul and Hannah to settle in easily.

With everything now coming together, the South Herefordshire are looking forward to the season ahead. HR

Farmers Bloodhounds

THE Farmers Bloodhounds saw Jason Newbold become a new master to join the team of Brian Temple MBH and Anna Hall MBH for the 2015/16 season.

With the help of whipper-in Jamie Temple, assisted by David Pratley, and Elaine Colton as second field master, the season has started well.

Hunt rides began in July while the crops were still standing and an extensive field of riders was out at the first meet held at Plum Park Farm, the home of the Farmers Bloodhounds and the Temple family.

With rain the night before, the hard ground had much improved



Ned Hercock gets in some practice for the season while out with the Cottesmore

pack. Even with the poor scenting conditions the pack are working very well. Fog has been quite disruptive; it has not stopped us yet but has meant a little bit of standing around at the meet waiting for it to clear.

We have had a few evening meets this year which have proved popular with the children and our "9am-5pm" working subscribers, who have managed to get a few hours in the saddle watching hounds after a day in the office or classroom.

The early mornings have proved very useful for Paul and his partner Hannah, helping them to learn the new country before the season starts. The assistance www.trevor-meeks-photography.co.uk, Nico Morgan and Stacey Williams



The Farmers Bloodhounds boast a large mounted field, taking advantage of the good ground and early autumn sunshine on their first hunt ride of the season

and a fun ride across the Wakefield Estate – by kind permission of the Richmond Watson family – was followed by a jump around the beautifully laid out cross-country course at Plum Park Farm.

Riders and foot followers were invited to participate at the delicious tea provided by Debbie Temple thereafter giving a wonderful social time to friends old and new.

Numbers have stayed fairly consistent and hunt rides turned to hound exercise in the second week of August.

Parades of hounds at Blakesley Show, Bucks County Show, Moreton in Marsh Show and Blenheim International Horse Trials have given the newly entered hounds valuable extra experience.

Several new meets have been added to the calendar this autumn allowing further areas of beautiful countryside to be crossed, extending from Northamptonshire to the Cotswolds. Our gratitude is given to those who have provided this opportunity to us.

The Farmers Bloodhounds, renowned for their welcoming and friendly ways, are indebted to the landowners and farmers who invite us to cross their land. All dates and venues can be found on the website; www. farmersbloodhounds.co.uk **GP**

Thurlow

A reasonably successful summer in the show ring for the Thurlow new entry left us wondering whether they could translate (quite) good looks into prowess in the hunting field.

The August Bank Holiday

Saturday was the first test for the six and a half couple of Thurlow bitches to enter. They started their hunting careers on a trail virtually straight from the meet and had the field strung out within moments of the hounds moving off.

There was quite a degree of sympathy for the lead-rein mothers who had not expected to have to be opening meet-fit by the end of August.

The seven couple of young doghounds entered in a torrential downpour on the Bank Holiday Monday. This was hardly an auspicious start and everyone had their first taste of being

soaked to the skin for the season.

The bitches did not miss out, as they paraded at the Fenland Country Fair at Quy in the afternoon, where a soaked but enthusiastic crowd watched a soaked but enthusiastic pack.

We were fortunate in that enough large gaps in the harvest allowed us to pursue a full schedule from the start of September and things have started to come together well. A remarkably mobile autumn has emerged and although there has been no discernable scent in covert, the same trail has had hounds screaming in full cry once out in the open. It is one of those

enigmas that is hard to explain to the uninitiated.

There are still standing crops, which we have to be careful to avoid and communication and cooperation with our shoots is of paramount importance.

Although conditions have been less than ideal, there are good signs that we have hounds that are hunting well as a pack, our doghounds in particular have a wonderful deep cry and both they and the bitches have plenty of drive. Two of the most memorable September days in post-ban memory have occurred this season and there is plenty for us to look forward to. RV H&H



Off to a keen start: Belvoir huntsman John Holliday with hounds outside Aswarby Church in Lincolnshire

COMMENT

Andrew Sallis



Effort rewarded

ETTING out in the whiplash of a tropical thunderstorm for a morning's autumn hunting in a huge expanse of near-coastal country — largely without feature above waist height — might be considered rash by some. Hounds loaded with customary enthusiasm, although my horse gave me a sideward look of incredulity as the ramp went up. He too must have seen the swathe of green and flashing red over the Romney Marsh on the weather forecast. I answered a few texts, asking whether (and why) we were really still going to hunt, and set out.

Arriving unusually early, we sat, buffeted, in the newly christened ark discussing whether to put my smart, new, red, huntsman's sou'wester over my hunt coat or to dispense with the hunt coat altogether. The overcoat was formerly Stan Luckhurst's, a kind gift from Mrs Luckhurst to a regularly drowned master.

Belt and braces won the day. Our hardy yet

select field arrived in all manner of attire, but most importantly, eager to get hunting.

As reward for our efforts, the monsoon abated and dark skies parted to enable a most useful morning, after which I felt several pounds lighter having spent three active hours inside my strawberry plastic cocoon.

Clear requirements

AS autumn progresses, some hunts are beginning to make their mastership and staffing arrangements in good time for next season. After decades of dedicated service, George Adams is retiring as huntsman of the Fitzwilliam. The advert for his successor was most refreshing and clearly stated what is required: a professional huntsman with experience to hunt hounds from 2016.

Of late, too many committees have the view that they will "see what is out there" before they decide what sort of arrangement they want. Usually they end up appointing nobody and muddling on, having caused unnecessary upset beyond their own hunt boundaries.

Hunting has few secrets and more than any appointment outside Parliament, everybody thinks they have a right to an opinion. Good people (and no doubt a few rogues too) put their jobs and reputations on the line, along with the trust of the mastership, committee, staff and country by applying for positions in their reasonable quest to climb the ladder, seek security or simply fresh pastures.

Implications for us all

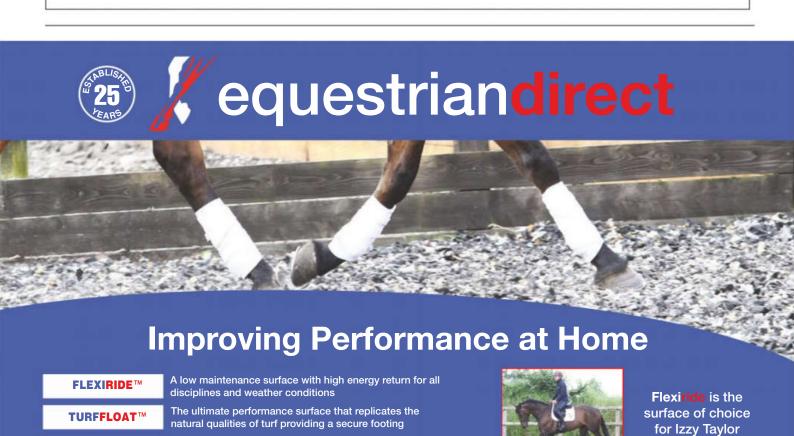
WHERE were you when Jeremy Corbyn was elected to lead Her Majesty's opposition? Hardly a JFK moment, I know, but as I sat in the car after a challenging morning's autumn hunting, I thought that this shambles could have implications for us all, for years to come.

Have I missed something? On his chauffeur driven campaign tour, did Corbyn give some early-Obamaesque spine-tingling oration? No. With More's Utopia under one arm and A Petulant Sixth Former's Guide To The Galaxy under the other, the dull sound-bite solutions to the world's genuine problems are worrying.

Now that the Labour Party is wearing the emperor's old clothes, largely against its will, the Prime Minister will have to show great leadership to prevent his party from within becoming the government and the opposition. With the distinct possibility of an extended period of Tory administrations ahead, the new leadership of the Countryside Alliance and in time, VoteOK, has to redefine their relevance and message.

Corbyn's noisy minority will cause hunting problems through every media possible, but we have to defend ourselves by re-establishing hunting's considerable worth to the countryside, quarry, hound, horse and human.

As for JC appointing a vegan and animal rights supporter to shadow the farming brief; vegetables are a very important part of British farming but please don't get me started. H&H



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Meynell & South Staffs, Alkmonton, Derbys

27 September

By Jane Carley

ELENTLESS won the open qualifier at the 40th running of the Meynell Team Chase with a polished round after a tense start (see box, right). Rowan Cope and Dane gave a flawless lead, taking the tightest of lines over early hedges that snaked in and out of the horsebox park field and then came down the hill to the centre of the course at top speed. Simon Coady's Risky Beauty flattened over the blackthorn in the bottom but got away with it, and Dougie Gittins and Luke Morgan were close on Rowan's heels for a tidy run through the unusual 180° copse pen.

With Dougie cutting the corner after the second last and kicking

on to give them their finishing time, it was a masterclass in how to ride the big hedges and rolling terrain.

Simon Coady commented: "It's a big track but rides really well. These four horses go brilliantly together and with the great lead that Rowan and Dane give, you can just sit there and follow."

Team Ride-Away II followed with a standout performance from Joe Stephenson and Eddie, who led his team-mates on confidently after team captain Stephen Clark fell at the top of the hill. A tangle at the pen barely interrupted their flow and Bryan Allen and Charlotte Alexander enjoyed huge leaps over the last two before Charlotte urged the speedy Kahrayn over the line to saye vital seconds.

"Kahrayn, who I call Kingy after his former trainer Alan King, has come on so well and just loves this job," said Charlotte. "I used to organise my own teams but it's so much fun riding with these guys and with the Boring Gorings."

The team named after the Goring Hotel in London had blazed the trail over the sumptuous track and put in a confident performance for third, despite Ricky Johnson calling a cab as early as the second fence. Dai Harrison swept on past Fred French to take up the lead, with Charlotte in close contention to give them a faultless run through the pen and over the big hedges at the end.

"My horse actually lacks turn of foot as he's part-warmblood – his grandsire was Dutch Courage – but he makes up for it with his turning and jumping, and was

TALKING POINT

Meynell's monsters

THE curse of the warm-up seems to be a phenomenon unique to Meynell, where even the most mild-mannered of horses turn into monsters. The first competitor was bucked off before the novice class had got going. Then Rowan Cope had to dismount from Dane while team supporters cajoled him to the start so that his jockey could be legged up as the starter dropped his flag. Sarah Myhill bit the dust twice in the warm-up, and GB Print Pheasant Pluckers' Julia Dungworth survived a rodeo performance before her teammates virtually bundled her mount to the start line. Budding horse whisperers should apply to the Meynell committee ahead of next year's event.





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With the order changing from early on, their horses never looked happy on the Derbyshire track, and they retired midway.

Eternal Optimists look sharp

THE intermediate has become more competitive with every event this season, and Simon Coady has honed a sharp team for the Eternal Optimists, put to great effect with their win here.

With Simon at the head of affairs on Lazzaz, they set off at considerable speed up the first hill, and their pace resulted in a couple of glance-offs for Rowan Cope and Jake Launchbury, although they were quick to re-present and make up time. They finished tightly bunched with a winning margin of just

three seconds.

'We had one or two problems but were quick enough to get away with it. We're looking forward to running in opens later in the season," said Jake.

Team Ride Away were hot on their heels, with Matt

Mackley drafted in at the last minute to make up the quartet with Stephen Clark, Bryan Allen and Joe Stephenson. They took the tightest of lines to shave seconds off what looked like a steady round, making an

impossible-looking turn from the coffin to the final hedge.

"I don't know what happened to Stephen at the top of the hill," joked Bryan, "I thought he'd stopped for a fag."

His captain's retort: "But I notice that none of the others offered to lead!"

Coombe Farm Wines League leaders Art Hotel Racers were

RESULTS

Open.—1, Relentless (R Cope, D Gittins, L Morgan, S Coady) 4.23; 2, Team Ride Away II (S Clark, B Allen, J Stephenson, C Alexander) 4.48; 3, Boring Gorings (F French, C Alexander, D Harrison, R Johnson) 5.01; 4, Fox Grant Thrusters. Intermediate.—1, Eternal Optimists (S Coady, R Cope, J Launchbury, J Stephenson) 4,04; 2, Team Ride Away III (S Clark, B Allen, J Stephenson, M Mackley) 4.07; 3, Art Hotel

also close behind, despite a tangle in the pen, with Charlotte Seymour Williams setting them a great gallop.

Simon Coady's luck ran out with his second intermediate team the Chimeras, when he suffered a crunching fall as Risk hit the top of a timber havrack, and sustained a broken collarbone. H&H

Racers (Y Goss, O Walters, C Davey, C Seymour Williams) 4.09; 4, Fox Grant Dot Com; 5, Dapper Dobbins Hedgehoppers 2; 6, Captain Morgan. novice (bogey time).—1, Point Two Top Spec Close Shavers (A Brown, Brown, L Terblanche Brown, P Thomason); 2, Hopwas Hedliang (A McCinzida, B Bid C Wilthobod) Hooligans (A McGinnigle, B Bird, C Whitehead, A Brooks); 3, The Wot Nots (S Rose, C Burrows, P Sewell, S Morgan); 4, Cunning Stunts; 5, Fox Grant Cubs; 6, Thoroughly Bred.

placed in the Dianas of the Chase side-saddle race with my son's girlfriend," explained Dai, joint-

master of the Monmouthshire hunt, who travels from Abergavenny to contest team

chases across the country.

Fox Grant Thrusters had a cracking start and then lost Phil Nicholls over the drop hedge. With Mollie Chaston hitting the front in her first open team chase, they rode a great line from the

penultimate to the last fence, Lindsey Harrison kicking on with the huge Fugly behind Sarah Myhill and Larry.

Point Two Top Spec Hair Raisers, who qualified for the finals at last week's Atherstone event, had a less satisfying round.



Intermediate runners-up Team Ride Away III: Stephen Clark leads on Big Pete

'We had one or

twoproblems

but were quick

enough to get

away with it'

Jake Launchbury

Eternal Optimists



Dudley Apicella delivers outstanding show

Driving Addington & Osborne Refrigerators BDS National Championships, Bucks 26 September

By Sarah Radford

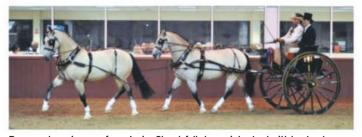
ESSIE DUDLEY APICELLA had an extremely productive national championships as her four turnouts took two titles, two reserves and the supreme.

Her reigning Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) champion Aghaderg Stand And Deliver (Paddy) stole the show in the gala evening performance, having topped the morning's Osborne Refrigerators 138cm and under hackney championship. "I haven't made the final for six years," said Jessie, who last won the supreme title aged 18.

"Paddy hasn't been shown since the Royal Welsh and I've missed driving him so much. He's so exciting – you just let him do his job and don't interfere."

Third to go of nine qualified turnouts, the nine-year-old gelding was rhythmic, powerful and correct to take a seven-point lead. He scored 29 out of 30 from judges Roger Jacobs, Jane MacInnes and Mark Broadbent.

Only Janice Clough delivered a challenge. Her nine-year-old Welsh section D Dearne Valley Ronaldo won the title here in his debut season in 2012 and has been reserve for the past two



Reserve champions: on-form Janice Clough falls two points short with her tandem

years. This time, he was paired in a tandem with another striking dun, Kallister Lodge The Eliminator, in wheel.

They received a 10 from Roger Jacobs but an eight and a nine from the other judges left them trailing two points behind. "The wheeler has never been indoors but he just got on with his

job," said Janice, who has taken the top spot in HOYS qualifiers on three occasions this season. "A tandem is more challenging but I thought they did me proud."

It's rare to see a whip take two turnouts forward into a supreme, but the finale's individual show format could accommodate it. Jessie returned to the ring as the

ONES TO WATCH

Stockdale Black Prince and Murrayhall Cadfael Arbenig

JESSIE DUDLEY APICELLA'S reserve champions looked exciting prospects.

Jodie Sillett's five-year-old Stockdale Black Prince stood second in the Welsh section Ds.

"He's only at his fourth show," said Jessie. "I did a season of working hunters with him but he was a bit too strong. I put him in harness and he hasn't looked back."

Barry and Helen Hall's Welsh cob stallion Murrayhall Cadfael Arbenig took a step back from wagon classes to take reserve in the costers.

"He's the most exciting thing you'll ever drive," Jessie said.

final competitor with Jean Clayden's Osborne Refrigerators Welsh section A, B and C champion Cosford Izi Wotnot.

The "plucky" four-year-old Welsh section A was wonderfully unfazed for a novice to secure 26 points and finish in close third.

"Nothing bothers him, I can put him in the deep end and he says, 'I'll do that for you'," said Jessie, who had to share the drive with groom Kelly Searle so the pony could feature in the initial laps and prize-giving.

"I've had the most fantastic show," Jessie added. "It was a mission and I couldn't have done it without so much help."

Joe Rowe was one of two drivers to elicit 24 points from the judges. His consistent partner, 13-year-old hackney mare Brookeborough Stepping Star, was making her first appearance in the finale, having secured the



Aileen McDonald's Shetland Balgay Way No Way (Kendal Young) makes light of a nine-hour journey to head the M&M championship

Osborne Refrigerators 138cm and over hackney title.

"I wasn't worried about the two-minute show," said Joe. "As a farrier your day never ends up as it's meant to so I don't plan too much ahead."

Uwan makes it six from six

HIS score was matched by Mark Fuller and Uwan, one of two novice Welsh section Ds to qualify for the supreme.

The eight-year-old gelding took his sixth win of six shows to top the Osborne Refrigerators country vehicles, put to a fondly regarded Ralli Car.

"It was owned by the gentleman who ran the riding school where I learned to ride," said Mark. "After he died, his nephew asked if I'd like to buy it.

"I used it successfully but then it got smashed into at Smiths Lawn when a horse ran loose. We had to have it restored, which was a shame as it was completely original. It suits this horse down to the ground."

Nicola Salter and Mike Clark's eight-year-old Newydd Beau netted the Osborne Refrigerators Welsh section D championship. The owner of prolific champion Thorneyside The Foreman, Mike had been searching for another high-quality cob.

"I spotted him on the internet and Mike and Malcolm [husband] went to see him. He'd been ridden and had qualified for Olympia under saddle but not driven," said Nicola. "He's a gentleman, who has been a pleasure to bring on."

The horse was put to a roundback gig formerly owned by Jean Clayden, who drove to five HOYS victories in it with the legendary Glenshane Prince.

Charlie Bailey and his father John's Gelderlander Tom retained their title in the Osborne Refrigerators over 138cm non-hackney championship.

"He was a bit lively as he'd had a few weeks off," said Charlie. "I'm hoping to find a wheeler now and bring him out as a tandem next year."

Christine Bassett and her Highland Staffin Peggi Of Castlegreen were also repeat winners. Last year's mountain and moorland (M&M) victors put their name to the Osborne Refrigerators 138cm and under non-hackney title. They were beaten into reserve in the M&Ms by Kendal Young driving Aileen McDonald's 10-year-old Shetland Balgay Way No Way — who had travelled from Scotland for the championships.

"I bred him and his mother so he is very special. He has a huge length of stride for a Shetland," said Aileen.

Osborne's risk pays off

THERE was robust competition in the trade championship. Costers winner Terry Burgess and Cledlyn Sam came forward alongside two four-wheel turnouts from funeral directors T Cribbs & Son.

"It's the first time we've had two compete against each other," said whip Kevin Hutchinson, who drove Friesians Monty and Stanley to the overall reserve while fellow coachman Lee Cross beat him to head the four-wheel class with Earl and William.

The overall trade title went to two-wheel victor Jeff Osborne and his coloured cob The Poacher. A few months shy of his 80th birthday, Jeff relied on his experience to clinch the class.

"My heart sank when I went into the ring, they are hard turnouts to beat," said Jeff.
"I realised I had the slight advantage of being able to do a 360° turn on the axle to attract the judges' attention. It's hard enough in a two-wheel but impossible for the others in the four-wheel. I pulled it off but it was a risk in a buzzy indoor arena."



Jeff Osborne, 79, takes the overall trade title with The Poacher, thanks to a 360° turn



Welsh section D champion Newydd Beau (Nicola Salter), put to a roundback gig

RESULTS

Osborne Refrigerators championships: single hackney type over 138cm.-1, J Rowe's Brookeborough Stepping Star; 2, J Dobson's Skelton Ferdinand (J Dobson); 3, Mr & Mrs R Allen's Baldwin's Look At Me (E Allen). single hackney type 138cm & under.-1 & sup, J Dudley Apicella's Aghderg Stand And Deliver; 2, Smith Bros' Royal Sunshine (L Smith); 3, Mr & Mrs J Randall's Heartland Starlighter (J Randall). single non-hackney over 138cm-1, J Bailey's Tom (C Bailey); 2, M Burdick's Horsemens Momentum; 3, Mr & Mrs M Edmonds' Maylands Magpie (E Edmonds). single non-hackney 138cm & under.-1, Mr & Mrs PJ Bassett's Staffin Peggi Of Castlegreen (C Bassett); 2, A McDonald's Balgay Way No Way (K Young); 3, A Radcliffe's Barns Blue Mouse. country turnout.-1, M Fuller's Uwan; 2, G Mills' Toobie & Dice; 3, Osborne Refrigerators Ltd's The Poacher (J Osborne). Welsh sec D.-1, M Clark's Newydd Beau (N Salter); 2, J Dudley Apicella's Stockdale Black Prince; 3, J Clough & G Schofield's Dearne Valley Ronaldo (J Clough). Welsh sec A, B & C.-1, J Clayden's Cosford Izi Wotnot (J Dudley Apicella); 2, T Morris's Drysiog Daniel Ap Jet (V Morris); 3, J Ralls' Oakhaze McClintock. M&M.-1, Balgay Way No Way; 2, Staffin Peggi Of Castlegreen;

3, Barns Blue Mouse, pairs & tandems.—1 & res sup., J Clough & G Schofield's Dearne Valley Ronaldo & Kallister Lodge The Eliminator; 2, E Boscawen's Sureli Van Burmania & Willeke Femke H (M Green); 3, Toobie & Dice, two-wheel light trade.—1 & ch, The Poacher; 2, C Fountain's Bookham Lodge Logan (T Fountain); 3, W Hawkins' Thorneyside The Intruder (C Brown), four-wheel light trade.—1, T Cribb & Sons' Bons' Monty & Stanley (K Hutchinson); 3, B Alexander's Bullet & Bandit. costers/ trolleys.—1, T Burgess's Cledlyn Sam; 2, B Hall's Murrayhall Cadfael Arbenig (J Dudley Apicella); 3, R Beldom's Stella. two-wheel exercise vehicle.—1 & Rs., T Pearce's Wildcourt Little Spotlight; 2, K Toner's Tyssul Playboy (E Hamilton); 3, A Bromwich's Klingrahoull Cavalier (J Wedgbury), four-wheel exercise vehicle.—1 & ch, L Beech & J Cooper's Sybolt H (J Cooper); 2, C Court's Sondrio; 3, C Everleigh's Crystal Sunrise. young driver 10-14 trad.—1, N Waddicor & S Cain's Cosmo (A Stone). young driver 15-17 trad.—1 & ch, L Marshall's Stapleford March; 3, Cosmo (A Stone). young driver 12-14 exercise.—1 & L Marshall's Noddyvyse Show Girl; 2, A Stone's Aflie, young driver 15-17 exercise.—1 & res, A Fulford's Dylan; 2, J Butterworth's Robble (A

There was an emotional victory for Rhian Ralph and Anthea Birch's Welsh section C Penclose Wotsit in their final young drivers' appearance.

"For the past seven years I've been trying to win it, and the best I've been is reserve," said Rhian, who will continue to compete while she studies for her A levels.

A former reserve young driver champion here with co-owner Luke Beech, 10-year-old Friesian

Lockett). Bob Alexander M&M.-1, T Mizzi's Thimbleby Candyman; 2, S Woodcock's Foldhouse Little Lord. QTR transport Welsh sec A, B & C.-1, Oakhaze McClintock; 2, Mr & Mrs E Elliott's Penway Sovereign (J Elliott). QTR Transport Welsh sec D.-1, S Tubb's Bertie Independence Warrior; 2, J H White's Trixies Charlie. hackney type.-1, Heartland Starlighter. Northern Riding Centre non-hackney type.-1, Horsemens Momentum; 2, Monnington's Ridgewood Phire Cracker. lady & gentleman whip.-1, Aurelia Van Burmania & Willeke Femke H; 2, Horsemens Momentum. KBIS British Equestrian Insurance multiples, pairs & tandems.-1, B Alexander's Keman, Terminator & Snowman. KBIS British Equestrian Insurance multiples, pairs & tandems.-1, B Alexander's Keman, Terminator & Snowman. KBIS British Equestrian Insurance world & rare breeds.-1, Aurelia Van Burmania & Willeke Femke H; 2, Tom; 3, G Chippendale's Stennerskeugh. T Cribb & Sons' coloured horse.-1, b Alexander's Butch & Sundance; 2, Toobie & Dice. Carriagehouse Insurance concours d'elegance.-1, L Smith's Waunoris Melody. Diana Mellows ride & drive.-1, Sybolt H; 2, Monnington's Monnington Aura (T Connolly); 3, S Dias-Ayton's Ballarina. Sara Owlett Gonkeys & mules.-1, J Oliver's Mixandmatch; 2, R Boyce's Fullmoon; 3, J Cordell's Flora Of Callernish. young driver.-1, Dylan; 2, L Marshall's Stapleford March; 3, N Waddicor's

Sybolt H topped the exercise vehicles for Jemma Cooper.

"He's finally come into his power this year – he could be sluggish and didn't have the impulsion before," Jemma said.

Hayley McNiece continued an incredible season to win the hackney wagons with her stallion Baldwins A Class Act, while the Welsh wagon class was claimed by Frankie Allen and Brightside Sahara Dune. H&H

Klington Khoja (A Waddicor). NFU Mutual pleasure driving. – 1, M Wilton's Bryn Bayleag & Bronllys Marc; 2, Sondrio; 3, A Wright's Heathview's Phantom. Brightside Welsh cobs sec A, B & C. – 1 & res, T Allen's Dabernom Oscar; 2, Mr & Mrs M Armstong's Twy-Neash The Mischief Maker (M Armstrong). Brightside Welsh cobs sec D. – 1, J Archer's Montel Dark Distroyer; 2, J Dyke & D Groom's Thorneyside Gold Dust; 3 & ch, W Hawkin's Brightside Sahara Duns; 6 (H) Hawkin's Brightside Sahara Dun (F Allen). Sandra & Martin Wood open hackney pony under 14hh. – 1, Mr & Mrs J Randall's Heartland Sundance (J Randall); 2, Osborne Refrigerators Ltd's Heartland Lone Star (A Tucker); 3, Peters family's Aghaderg Mourinho (J Wenham). Sandra & Martin Wood novice hackney horse over 14hh. – 1, B Ward's Wentworth Inspiration; 2, C Purver & S Barraclough's Wellshaw Petite Etoile (S Barraclough's Wellshaw Petite Etoile (S Barraclough's Gablishaw Petite Etoile (S Harraclough's Gablishaw Petite Etoile (S Harraclough's Baldwins A Class Act; 2, R Moore's Baldwins Young Guns (S Barraclough); 3, T Thomas's De Gratia Extravaganza. Sandra & Martin Wood open hackney over 14hh. – 1 & ct, H McNiece's Baldwins A Class Act; 2, R Moore's Baldwins Young Guns (S Barraclough); 3, J Thomas's De Gratia Extravaganza. Sandra & Martin Wood open hackney pony 14hh & under – 1 & res, B Ward's Luddington My Way; 2, R Moore's Gilcrest Bobby Shafto (S Barraclough); 3, J Chicken's Stapleford Teddy Boy (C Purver).

Starlighter shows his sparkle

Victoria Foods Championship, Newbury Showground, Berks

20 September

By Sarah Radford

OSIE RANDALL headed a closely fought showdown to take the private drive championship at Newbury with her hackney pony Heartland Starlighter.

Josie's investment in schooling the former wagon pony paid off as her accurate standshow in front of a two-judge panel helped secure her the title with the 13-year-old gelding.

"Unusually, they asked us for an uphill reverse. Fortunately my ponies are happy to reverse wherever," said Josie, who bought Starlighter along with another pony, Heartland Sundance, from Holland three years ago.

"They couldn't back up when I got them as they don't do that with them in Holland. It took a good year to get them doing it properly. Standing still also took



practice as all they knew was go in [the ring] and go forwards."

Having driven both ponies as singles and also as a pair, Josie has focused on Starlighter this year for private drive classes, picking up a Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) pass at Bakewell.

"My son [John] is driving Sundance in wagons, so it's worked out nicely," she added.

Andrew Hamilton-Rhodes took reserve with Christine Townsend's part-bred Welsh Brookeborough Black Bob. "He's only been lightly shown this year with four outings," said Andrew, who collected his HOYS ticket at the Royal Highland. "He's the sweetest little pony, and an absolute gentleman. We use Christine's beautiful Lawton gig with him, which is 100% original. The quality does prevail when you add it together."

Andrew had already secured the Royal County of Berkshire Show championship the previous day with his home-bred hackney Berkeley Rhodes Princess. Nicky Buxton took home the exercise vehicle championship with her promising novice Blackhill Peggy. The Dales-Hackney turned four only three months ago.

"My cob-Friesian stallion whom I usually show has been out of action with an allergy problem so Peggy has had to step in," said Devon-based Nicky. "We've done a few local agricultural shows so she's got used to the big rings very quickly. Her trainability is second to none."

Nicky hopes to bring Blackhill Peggy out in private drive classes next year.

"In January a tree fell down on the garage where our carriages are stored. We got one back from the wheelwrights and we have one still to pick up," she added. H&H

RESULTS

Victoria Foods exercise and pleasure driving ch.—1, N Buxton's Blackhill Peggy; 2, J Rowe's Noddyvyse Temptation, private driving ch.—1, J Randall's Heartland Starlighter; 2, Mr & Mrs Townsend's Brookeborough Black Bob (A Hamilton-Rhodes); 3, J Dudley-Apicella's Stockdale Black Prince.

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Height: 18hh Age: 9yo Price: £3,50

Description: Roony is a superb allrounder in his prime. He is sadly for sale due to financial reasons. Roony is easy to do in every way, he has competed at both British Eventing and F.E.I horse trials but is equally a quiet & pleasant hack. Roony would suit someone looking to enjoy there riding & competing he is a one man/woman operation at shows & to travel etc. One careful owner from new full service history! No vices. Home more important than price.

07849 591 764 jon.bard14@gmail.com

EUROPEAN SPORTS HORSES

Price: Start at £4500 Location: Warwickshire **Description:** Has just imported 29 Holsteiners from 2-8yrs. Reasonably priced super bloodlines. See www.europeansportshorses.co.uk for details of some of them. We also have a number of showjumpers for sale who are out competing. Prices start at £4500 and evry horse carries a one month exchange policy. Pictured here: 16.1hh 3yrs holstein gelding, super easy temperament, good in and out of the stable. £5500. 16.3hh grey mare 6yrs Singapore BS 100 points, super temperament suit novice or experienced rider. 07768 510963 or 01789 751000 (Carron Nicol) www.europeansportshorses.co.uk





2 Hunters / Jumpers for Sale by Cruising &

Price: £6000 each ONO

Description: Grey gelding, 17.2hh 9yo hunter / jumper by Clover Hill. Grey gelding, 16.2hh, 10yo hunter / jumper by Cruising, owner retired, both have passports & registered. More photographs on request.

00353 872 930 525 catherinehealy10@gmail.com

16h 3ins & Over

WKD Detroit

Height: 17hh Age: 10 year old

Price: POA

Description: Stunning bay gelding by Acorado. Currently jumping 120/130 classes with a lot more ability. Qualified RHS and placed on Spanish Sunshine Touyr. Brave, careful, honest and very competitive horse. Conventional easy ride with fantastic manners. Recently underused due to owners committments. 100% in every way. Videos available. 07811480233

stephen@drumcarrow.co.uk



Super smart gentleman's

Height: 17.2hh Age: 6yrs Price: £7,500

Description: Gelding, By Brakens Ben. George has hunted a season with the Wynnstay and is now hunting with the Cheshire Forest. He is a snaffle mouth at all times, with impeccable manners and a neat, careful technique over a fence. Has crossed all sorts of country, with a ground covering stride and gives a really comfortable ride. An experienced hunter, he is also very well schooled on the flat and over a fence, goes first or last and is just a lovely kind horse to have around. Good to clip, shoe, etc. Stands at the ramp to get on, mannerly at the meet and with hounds. 079579994491 kjstanworth@aol.com



Beautiful dressage prospect/

Height: 16.3hh Age: 7yo Price: £3,500 Location: Worcestershire Description: Ed is a beautiful TB gelding. He has 3 elasticated paces & enjoys his ob. Easy to do in all ways, to shoe, box, teeth, clip stable duties. He would happily hack out alone or in co. & has been to many fun rides & RC activities. His strongest field would be DR having scored 73% on his first DR & consistent since with lovely comments from the judges. Very eye catching so would have to potential to take you far in ROR shows. Never spooky or fizzy. Recently had teeth checked & back & would be open to vetting. 5* home much needed for this beautiful horse. Very sad genuine sale. 07765 406 766 sophie_bridger@hotmail.co.uk



Fantastic All-Rounder

Heiaht: 18hh Age: 10yo

Price: £5,450 ono

Description: Chestnut gelding. Exceptional breeding by Argentinus. Hunted with hunt master, great hunter show horse, 2nd at first outing Ridden Hunter. Loves XC, 3 lovely paces, very good flat work, great potential for Dressage. This handsome chap is a real pleasure.

07778 616990



Top Class Spotty Eventer

Height: approx 16.3hh Age: 5yo Price: £15,000 Description: Spotted 'Danish Knabbstrupper'. By Jalisco B, with Voltaire and Nimmerdor on the sire side she has Baloubet du Rouet and Wellington on the dam side. Brought on slowly with placings and double clears at BE90 and 100, she has the potential to go to the top, schooled XC novice recently and definitely no where near her max. Brave and bold with heaps of scope.

07769 700 768 alisongray28@hotmail.com

Smart MW Hunter

Height: 17.1hh Age: 8 year old Price: £5.000

Description: MW Irish Sports Horse mare. Not mareish. Super hunter who jumps anything both in front and behind. Careful, bold and scopey. Currently competing BS Newcomers and ready to jump Foxhunter classes. Has evented with 1 BE point 2 foundation points. Lost our way a little eventing but would event with right rider. Big paces but not a dressage fan. 07905 061812 mcalpinealex70@googlemail.com



Hunter for Sale: Mare

Height: 16.3hh Age: 10yo Price: £4500 Description: Lovely mare.



hunted with Woodland Pytchley, Cottesmore, Fernie and Readyfield blood hounds. Loves her job. Has done a little show jumping, dressage. Easy to hox/clip/shoe/handle. Hacks alone or in company. Sad sale as daughter going to university, 5 star home only. 07740625363

iax@hivesassociates.co.uk

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Super Star In The Making

Price: £10,000

Description: BIG BEN IV Modern

Eventing breeding mixing Bazzar Texas (Warmblood) X TB He has completed 3 BE90 (4yo Class) this year Finishing 6th at Eland Lodge, 5th at Skipton and 6th at Llanymynech which he finished on his dressage score of 28.5 Lots of potential. Would make a fantastic hunter Suit a amateur looking for Grassroots success!!! Good to do in the stable. Lives in or out Good to hack, shoe, etc. 07792 006 956 carlosparo@me.com



Height: 16.3hh Age: 6yo Price: £8,500 Description: Quality KWPN mare. By Verdi



out of a Lincoln mare. Competing at British Novice and Discovery with winnings of £30. Hacks out, has been XC schooling, PC camp and local dressage.

07974 931 149 psedgw2961@gmail.com

Superb Showjumper/



Price: £12.500 Description: GOLDEN HILLS II This chap really has the 'wow' factor. Eye catching with three lovely paces scoring into the 70's securing both 1st place and the Championship at his first outing in dressage qualifying for BRC championships 2015. He has hunted this past year, will jump anything he is pointed at. Bold and brave XC. Excellent with traffic or heavy machinery. Will travel in a box or trailer and stand in either at shows. 07795060593 andilock@me.com

Smart **Belgium** warmblood



Height: 16.3hh (167cm) Price: £5.000 Description: Belgium warmblood mare 112 points BS double clear BN ,Bicton September 2015, won 1m open and plenty of scope and potential cubbed Dartmoor September 2015 ,goes through water. Hacks alone and in company Good to box shoe and clip and easy to do Good straight paces and conformation. 07814440977 sophia@leyfarm.eclipse.co.uk

Fantastic quality hunter



Height: 16.3hh Age: 6 yrs Price: £4,250 Description: Pretty Irish sports horse mare. A genuine kind mare that always tries her hardest to please. An honest jumper with a great technique over both show jumps and cross country fences and unfazed by fillers, water, ditches etc. Fantastic to hack alone or in company, good with all traffic. Forward going yet safe, 3 good paces. 07519887654 malin_vanessa@yahoo.co.uk

Handsome TB Geldina

Heiaht: 17.2hh

Age: 8yo Price: £5,000 Description: Won & placed unaff ODE's.

Hacks alone or in

company, rides & leads, lives in or out with mares or geldings. Has all the attributes to be a great hunter, riding club, general all rounder. 07804 236 115 a mace@hotmail.co.uk

Stunning Gelding



Cariena VI

Height: 16hh Age: Rising 7 yrs Price: £6,000

Location: Bromley, Kent

Description: Stunning mare rising 7 yrs Capitol / Clearway breeding. Full FEI passport, competed nationally

and internationally consistently 1.20/1.30 classes with scope for more. Clever and careful mare who never stops and jumps from any stride. Has xc schooled with a young girl - jumped ditches water etc. Always in a snaffle, clean limbs, no vices, easy to look after with a kind nature. Up to date with everything. Open to vet.

07958 798622

Height: 16.2hh Age: 10yo Price: £1.800 Description: Dapple grey gelding for sale. Having

previously won in excess of 1.3 million in winnings as a flat racer he was



retired from racing due to his heart not in any more and owner wanted to finish his racing career sound & not broken!

07850 417 511 coreymorris8888@icloud.com



SEASONED HUNT HORSE / HUNTING GENTLEMAN

Height: 16hh Age: 9vo Price: £3.500

Description: Everybody meet "Johnsie". He is a cracking skewbald gelding that is no stranger to the hunting field! Recently come over from Ireland where he has hunted 5 seasons & hunting the hounds for 4 of them, has been hunted weekly & rarely misses a meet. Will cross any country, there is nothing he won't jump. He has done XC & is very bold, rarely unplaced! He has lead the annual hunt fun ride for the past 4 years & loves his work, he's good to load, travel, farrier and to clip! Recently had his back & teeth checked & is fully shod & ready for the forthcoming season. 07977 719 123 bobbythomas123@icloud.com



Just Over From Ireland

Height: 16hh Age: 7yrs **Price:** £7000 Location: Somerset

Description: Bay gelding ISH. Superb hunter with talent and scope to go eventing. Cubbed to date. Part

ex can be considered. 07878673624



Top YR team/GP Dressage

Price: £16 500

Description: Breeding: Andretti/Special D/Sandro Hit /Houston Herby has been brought on lightly and has been to some training shows He has a very soft mouth and is light off the aids He has started to master changes and lateral work, based on very solid basic training He has an athletic build with excellent conformation, very expressive paces and a super trainable temperament. Competition home only. 01672 516992 tomas.hanlon@hotmail.com



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Stunning KWPNxISH

Height: 16.2hh Age: 13yr old Price: £3,500

Description: Bright Bay gelding. Same home for 8
years. Has competed all RC activities. Absolute gentleman & loving to handle with no vices. Easy to clip/shoe/
box/catch/teeth/worm. Snaffle mouthed for all 3 phases. He is not a novice ride and would suit a confident
and experienced teenager/young adult looking for an
RC/event type. Regularly placed UA Novice & RC Area
DR. Call for more info.

07790920109 stephanie.fryer@icloud.com



Chimonanthus, Stunning Event Mare

Height: 16.1hh Age: 8yo Price: £7,500 Location: Notts
Description: Dark bay Hanoverian x TB by Classic Juan. Started eventing this year due to no fault of her own, regularly placed at B£100 level, 4th, 5th, 5th at last three outings. Ready to move up to novice. Careful, scopey jumper with lovely paces the dressage judges love her. She is brave & fast & has taken to eventing extremely well. Hacks out alone or in co., not fazed by heavy traffic, good to box, shoe, clip etc. British bred & owned since a 2yo, full history known. Not a novice ride. Competition home sought for this talented horse. Rider would love to keep the ride should any owners be interested.

07948 975 372 georgia_holden@hotmail.co.uk



Handsome Ladies Hunter

Height: 16.2hh Age: 12yo Price: £2,000

Description: A very kind & genuine good looking lad.

Competed ODE, HT, SJ, Dressage & ROR Challenge. Loves his hunting & fun rides. Very safe hack alone & in company. Easy to do in every way. Travels on trailer or lorry. Vaccs, teeth & back up to date. No vices. Old tendon injury from racing - no problem at all now. Excellent home only.

07793 292 817 lisette.davies@telefonica.com



Eventer for Sale

Height: 16.2hh Age: 5yo Price: £5,500

Description: ISH gelding for sale. Has been to many dressage competitions winning at preliminary tests, has done lots of showjumping clinics away from home and competed up to 90cm. Has also done an affiliated BE80 at begging of this year. Very genuine horsel Great to hack alone or in company. Selling due to change of circumstances. Up to date with teeth good to load (trailer & lorry) good to clip and shoe. Just passed a 5 stage vetting. Will suit a competitive rider. Videos available.

07964 066 610 emily.mainieri@yahoo.it



Superb Hunter / Allrounder

Height: 16.1hh Age: 5yo Price: £6,950 0N0

Description: Chesnut gelding. Full Irish Draught. This lovely genuine horse has hunted and hunter trialled in Ireland and now autumn hunting with Cottesmore Fernie and Woodland Pytchley proving beautifully mannered going first or last. Completed two

UA 80 finishing 7th and 5th, ready to move up th a 90. 100% in all ways. Excellent trial facilities, can be seen and tried out hunting.

rebecca_l_vernon@hotmail.com



Selection of Superb Sports Horse Foals

Height: 16hh Age: 5 mths Location: Cardiff
Description: We are delighted to offer for sale our
wonderful 2015 foals! All foals are wormed & microchipped
& will be passported with CHAPS or the Irish Draught
society GB. All will be weaned, well handled, trimmed by the
farrier & ready to travel. Transport is available to anywhere
in the UK. 01446 760 777 / 07788 207 897
susanraymond_1@hotmail.co.uk



Superb Lightweight Cob

Height: 15.3hh Age: 11yo Price: £5,750 ONO Location: Derbyshire

Description: Potential County Standard show/WH. Irish x WB skewbald gelding by Ribbleside Gandolpho (Louelle Gandolpho) Bold/brave XC Never missed his turn. Careful over fences and jumps 1.25m. Must go to capable home where his exceptional ability will be appreciated. Seen at livery.

01332 824 977 dalecrombie@aol.com



EXPERIENCED NOVICE

Height: 16.2 hands Age: 11 years Price: £13,500
Location: Staffordshire, Lichfield
Description: Extremely attractive black warmblood
gelding. Snaffle mouth all 3 phases, never stops,
intelligent & bold. Very polite to ride, doesn't even need a
martingale. Evented up to 1* at Chatsworth 2014 and NRC
Gatcombe 2015. Consistent dressage in the 20's. 20 BE
points. Would suit rider wanting to win at BE100 level or
gain experience around novice & 1* tracks. 07921079629
samanthajrose87@gmail.com



Grassroots allround competition horse

Height: 15.3hh **Age:** 9yr **Price:** £9,500

Description: A true grassroots allrounder horse of a lifetime liver chestnut mare, ShxTB by 'Endoli'. Very well mannered and kind natured horse. She has successfully competed BE100 all season and has qualified and attended three riding club national championships this year! (Show x, horse trials / sj) She has 3 correct paces, and bold jump. She is a xc machine and has a heart of gold just loves to please. She has hunted on several occasions. Open to vet, fit and ready to go. 07891745749 davy_defect@hotmail.co.uk



Superb RID Stallion

Height: 16.1hh Age: 10 year old Price: £3000

Description: Longwood Silver Dollar is a C2 Registered Irish Draught stallion by Silver Granite, damsire Crannagh Hero with 9.5" of bone. Dollar is an absolute gentleman with his mares and is the easiest stallion to own. Dollar has an excellent jump. He has been x country schooled. He is excellent to hack alone and in company. He is excellent to box, shoe, clip, travel, catch etc.

07788207897

susanraymond_1@hotmail.co.uk

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Competition Connemara

Height: 14.2hh Age: 5 years Price: £2950 **Location:** Scottish Borders

Description: Well put together, bay mare, great breeding lines, superb jumping ability, and nice paces. Well behaved at shows, suit BS/BE/PC. Competitive home sought. Also less experience but quiet grev Connemara.

01835840307 or 07818 424246



Exceptionally well bred filly

Age: 3 year old Price: £2750

Description: Granparents Darco and Carrabawnview, Elavated paces being long reined and mouthed showing great potential over a fence only for sale due to owners emigrating. 07746936840



Dressage/Eventer

Height: 16.2hh Price: £26,000

Description: Very smart warmblood gelding for sale. Competed successfully to Novice proving so consistent in his dressage he could give dual purpose. Collected 143 Foundation points and 25 BE points over 3 seasons. Has been autumn hunting & BSJA with previous owner. Only for sale due to teenagers academic commitments & lack of time. Good to clip, box etc & very easy on ground.

07787546686 emilyb@longford.org.uk

Gorgeous Sport Horse for Sale

Height: 16hh

Age: Barely 2 years

Price: £2.500

Description: This lovely thoroughbred, Arab, Friesan horse, named Leonardo da Vinci, is for sale, lease or loan. He has a very high trot and beautiful paces, with the potential to go into showjumping/dressage. He is microchipped and ready to go. Leonardo is used to being around other animals and is very friendly and is extremely gentle around people of all ages.

00353 870902933



Super Talented

Height: 16.2hh Age: 5yo Price: £10,000 **Description:** Homebred by country love ranger. Jumped up to 1.05m, BN & disc double clears 2015, discovery double clears 2016. Carefully produced. Established on the flat & been XC schooled, 100% genuine in all ways. Perfect for competitive amateur, child off ponies for SJ, eventing or a higher RC type. Heartbreaking sale.

07786 005 620 s.e.clifford@windowslive.com



Bounce is a super, fun allrounder

Height: 16hh Age: 7 yrs Price: £4250 Description: Ready to go on and do any job. Grey Mare. By Grange Bouncer. She is brave, scopey and careful over all sorts of fences, both natural and coloured. She will sort herself out and goes off any stride, and will trot and pop over a trappy place out hunting. Equally happy being placed on a stride! Currently autumn hunting with the Cheshire Forest, and stands at the meet and gueues for a fence. Hacks out alone or in company, good in open fields and on the road. Sweet and willing on the flat, she goes in a natural outline and is a snaffle mouth. Good to clip, box, shoe etc, very easy to do in all ways. Full green Irish book, really well bred. **07980993393** kjstanworth@aol.com





Height: 16hh Age: 13yo Price: £7,500 with tack Description: Fox hunter potential. Stunning & elegant WB dark bay mare. Bred by Paul Schocemohle & reg at Zangersheide Stud. I have owned her since she was 4yo. She helped my 14yo daughter achieve many things from winning the Dengie showjumping & many affiliated up to 1.10m Recent competitions she has won BS90 every time out with small 16yo girl. Very well schooled with impressive floating paces & has represented PC at ntermediate level DR. She would suit a talented young rider who wants to go out & win at DR or SJ on this clearly talented & scope mare. Genuine eason for sale. Dressage saddle by separate negotiation.

07971 561 151 kim_woodgate@btinternet.com



Stunning Buckskin

Height: 16.1hh Age: 4 vo Price: £4.250 **Description:** Stunning filly by Multicolor II x Danish WB. Home bred and backed late last year. She has proven straight forward with a lovely, willing character. Competed in various shows this summer and showing huge potential. Now ready to go and have some real fun in a forever home.

07788670108 (Sally) hrpsal@aol.com

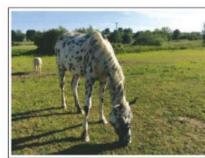


Gelding

Height: 16hh Age: 7 year old Price: £3500

Description: Has hunted all around co. Waterford. Currently hunting with the cheshire drag hunt and cheshire forest jumping hedges and rails snaffle mouth got and ready to no more pictures and videos available.

07821314137 / 07977513798



Knabstrupper X

Height: 16.2hh Age: 3yo Price: £2,300

Description: Lovely knabstrupper x WB gelding 3yo. 16'2. Used to farrier and daily goings on around yard. Ready to start his career. Homebred. For further details please call Vicky.

07722768826



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Smart RC/ PC/BE90/ **BD/hunt**



Description: ISH gelding. Same home 3yrs. Established BE90, Excels dressage (BRC Champs top 10, always placed BD-11 points in 3 Novices). Bold hunter. Easy family horse.Reluctant sale as too cautious for BE Novice. 07841641404 emma.pepperell@yahoo.co.uk



Bay Gelding Height: 16.1hh Age: 6yo

Price: £4,500

Description: Smart little Irish sports horse with big scopes jump. Anglo European Studbook Registered

(Bosworth's Jester). Hunted a full season last season with the Wheatland Hunt. Has also been lightly competed unaff show jumping up to 1m with ease. Three lovely paces on the flat. Plenty of scope to burn. Need a confident experienced rider to bring out the best in him. Fit and ready to go. Good to show, clip & box. 07531358449 hayley_hyde@live.com

Talented Young Showjumper

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6yo Price: £8,500

Location: Chorley, Lancashire

Description: Exceptional 6yo ready to compete B.S.J.A. Stunning steel grey home bred mare. Exciting prospect for the future. Lovely temperament. Jumping double clears discovery plenty of scope. Very sad sale. 07753426760 danicsmith@hotmail.co.uk

Fantastic Hunter/ Allrounder



Height: 16.1hh Age: 6 years old Price: £5,000 Description: Super Irish gelding. Grey. Very easy to do. Schools beautifully, light in the hand. Snaffle mouthed. Stavs in a lovely rhythm and is a bold jumper. Hunted in both Ireland and UK. Good out hacking, Brilliant in the hunt field with impeccable manners, never pulls an armchair ride. He would suit a lady rider and has the bone to carry a gent. Passed a 5* vetting Feb 15. 07906306986 jackieford921@btinternet.co.uk

Goraeous allrounder

Description: Maverick is a talented ISH gelding. county level working hunter qualifying for HOYS.

By Wivollet Van Beek

Heiaht: 16.1hh Age: 5 vr old Price: £6,500

Description: Bay gelding. Out of Porter Rhodes mare. Super event prospect. Fabulous paces and super scopy careful jump. Competed unaf ODE, HT, WH, dressage and SJ, BN on a ticket. A real head turner.

07813022801

liamthefarrier@hotmail.co.uk

ESF Rambo

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6yo Price: £POA

Description: Rambo is a stunning looking horse, genuine, careful, bold. with a huge jump, lots

of stamina & has proven to be very tough and sound. He would suit an ambitious, competitive rider. 01380 816 636 marketing@lucindafredericks.com

www.lucindafredericks.com/efs-rambo

Super Hunter/ Allrounder

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6 years old

Price: £4.950

Description: Smart chesnut Irish gelding, Snaffle mouthed, bold and brave jumper, hunted in Ireland with County Limerick and the ÚK. Very good to hack out, clip, shoe and box. Currently getting fit for hunting, has been cubbing this autumn & on hunt ride. Lovely manners in the hunting field, doesn't pull, jumps whatever is presented, will go first or last. Would suit a lady rider or smaller gent. Very genuine sale for a proper horse. 07879424323 amh1264@gmail.com

ISH Heiaht: 16hh

Price: £8.000

Previous owners competed him successfully at Maverick excels in all disciplines. More experienced rider required. 07912996416 lolpol98@hotmail.co.uk

Versatile allrounder

Price: £6250

Description: By Cavalier Royale.

Bred to jump, this bay mare is always a pleasure to work with. Successfully competed at BE100 and winnings at BS this summer, and has been to Intermediate Champs for riding club and pony club for three years running. Loves XC, always wanting to jump what is in front of her. Would make a great team chaser. Tack and rugs included as teenage boy has left school and is giving up. 07775863892 | laurathorogood@yahoo.co.uk

Experienced Hunter

Height: 16.1hh **Age:** 12yo Price: £4000 Description: Tricoloured ISH gelding. Currently whipping



in and hunting hounds, but equally happy in the field. Forward going but not fizzy, good to do in all ways. This gelding is up to weight, sound, fit and ready to go. **07929 071 249**

adam.southwold@hotmail.co.uk

Lovely Young Irish Horse **Event/DR/SJ**

Height: 16.1hh Age: 4yr old Price: £10,500

Description: Roan Grey Mare by Lancelot out of a Glidawn Diamond/TB mare. Green Book. Striking Young Irish bred horse with an attitude to die for. Easy & straightforward to ride and forward going but not strong. Snaffle mouthed and light in the rein. X Country Schooled and is bold & confident. Three very good paces could excel in dressage and is ready to go and competed. Good to Box & Shoe. 07711855545 wakefir68@yahoo.co.uk

Super Smart Hunter!

Height: 16.2hh Age: 8yo Price: £4,500

Description: Grey Gelding. Murphy loves to hunt, is currently Autumn Hunting with the West Somerset. proving to be very mannerly Good to box, shoe, load clip etc. Travels in a trailer

07713 346 459 phillipa1909@hotmail.co.uk

Potential Top Class

Height: 16.1hh Age: 4yo Price: £7,500

Description: Handsome gelding. Chestnut gelding

with unusual markings big scopey jump true gentleman. Hacks out in company and on his own. Home bred ready to compete. Very sad sale. Videos available upon request. 07753426760 danicsmith@hotmail.co.uk

Show **Jumper**

Price: £8,000

Description: 'Heres Johnny'

Stunning gelding with exceptional breeding and a kind temperament. 42 SJAI points including 18 wins to 1.10 level. Has jumped 1.20 and scope for more. A real amateurs or YR dream horse. Good to hack, shoe, clip etc. Only vice is that he cribs in the stable. Excellent trial facilities at Littleton Manor Equestrian J8 M25. **07774118000** info@katetarranteventing.com

SJ/ Event /Dressage

Height: 16.2hh **Age:** 6yo

Price: £7.500

Location: Nantwich, Cheshire, UK Description: Stunning looking black mare by

Capitalist. BS winnings £108 (78 points) Jumping newcomers, successfully done dressage. Brave and careful XC. Straightforward uncomplicated ride. Lots of scope and ability. Sad sale due to job commitments

01948770114

Gelding Hunter

Height: 16hh Age: 5yo Price: £5 500 Description: Bay gelding Hunter by Quickmove, Hunted

a full season last



year with Scarteen, Limerick, Ireland, Honest & straightforward ride. Will suit all levels of rider. Easy to box, clip & shoe.

0876 811 334 amfitzy@hotmail.com

Advertise your horse here and online for

Irish Draught Geldina

Height: 16.2hh Age: 12yo Price: £3,600 **Description:** By Creggan Emporor out of a Glenagyle Rebel mare. 9" bone. Amazing hunter/allrounder. Has hunted hounds and whipped in. Competed in teams XC, SJ and dressage. Has the movement, scope and conformation to do County level WH. Jumps absolutely anything you point him at. Will go up front or in the field. Everyone who has hunted or ridden this horse absolutely loves his attitude to work. 07711677560 kay@heatherdalesx.wanadoo.co.uk

Stunning Bargain

Height: 16.1 hh Age: 11 yrs Price: £1,950 **Description:** Chunky TB bay gelding. Consistently won & placed showing &

dressage scoring over 70%. Also hunted on several occasions. 100% box

shoe, clip & traffic. No vices. Genuine sale. 07909 995 562 kellymcnalley@hotmail.co.uk

TOP PROSPECT **SHOWJUMPER**

Height: 16hh Age: 6yo Price: £17.000 0N0 Description: Finely bred, ISH mare by Hold Up Premier & Diamond White Clover, Currently iumping at Newcomer & Foxhunter level. Would make fantastic



young riders horse. For sale due to pregnancy. 07429 549 065 jessicamaryhill@outlook.com

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www.irishhorsegateway.ie

Chestnut Geldina

Heiaht: 16.1hh Age: 5yo Price: £3,000



07752 434622

Irish Draught gelding

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6yo Price: £8,000 Description: Irish Draught gelding (Classic Vision x Holycross). Hunted two seasons, whipped-in for half of



last season. Hunter trialled, evented, show ring winner. Gentleman: 100% box, shoe, clip.

00353 871 925 407 catmorrissey24@gmail.com



'Chocolate Magnum' LW

Height: 153.5cm Age: 6yr old Price: £6,950 Description: I have to emphasise that this is a very sad sale of a super young cob who is sure to get his HOYS ticket next year! 'Chocolate Magnum' is a LW cob gelding, breeding recorded in a WPBR passport. JMB 153.5cm A real pleasure to own & compete. Lightly shown this season under Wendy Gibson & has been well placed with super comments from the judges.10* homes only. Sad sale. To include fitted saddle. 07765 396 653 staffordbartonstud@gmail.com

ISH aeldina

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6y Price: £5,000

Description: Super dressage/

eventer/allrounder/show. Beautiful conformation and lovely uphill paces. Kind and loves to learn, with all the basics in place. Would excel at dressage and has showjumped and x-country being bold and careful. Completely wasted on OAP. Good to handle in all ways and has no vices. For lots more info please phone or email.

01485529440 wendy.curnow@btinternet.com

Visit the HORSE-HOUND website to find out more



Connemara x TB

Height: 15.1hh Age: 9yo Price: £3,500 Location: N Yorks

Description: Stunnning Irish bred dun mare by Silver Heaven. Three beautiful rhythmic paces, lateral work established and competed well at prelim and Novice level dressage. Has also done WHs, BS, BE80s. Good to hack out and lovely to do with in all ways. Genuine reason for sale. Full histry known, snaffle mouthed.

07951740998

14h 3ins -15h 2ins

Allrounder/RC horse

Height: 15.2hh Age: 7yo **Price:** £5,950 Description: ID, grey mare by Crosstown Dancer, Competing BE90 level. Placed



BE & unaffiliated ODE, SJ & dressage. Placed 3rd first Working Hunter class. Has hunted. Hacks out alone or in company. 07775 706 784 info@wellparksportshorses.co.uk



Rea Section D Palomino

Height: 15.2hh Age: Rising 3 years Price: £875

Description: A lovely palomino gelding. To mature approx. A really super sort, true to type and colour, good temp, moves nicely, make super driver/all round family cob. Transport can be arranged

07808475175 / 01994484294



Endurance, All Rounder, Excellent Pedigree

Height: 15.1hh Age: 5vo Price: £3.000

Description: The most wonderful Arab gelding for sale. Will do anything you ask of him. Good in traffic, loud noises, dogs etc likes to jump - perfectly ready to make amazing endurance horse for the right owner to bring on. Fantastic parentage, - sire AV Montoya, Dam Bint El Kahira. Pure Bred Arab. A Little over 15h with maybe a little more to grow. He is gentle and sweet.

07969 367 068 charlotte@theconvent.net



Grey ISH - Pony / RC Allrounder



Height: 15.1hh Age: 18yo Price: £1,750 Description: Clondarragh Phantom (Ghost) Schoolmaster. BSJA with previous family. Perfect transition for teenager from pony to horse or daughter / mother share. Huge confidence giver. All PC, SJ & DR teams, rallies, camps. Bold jump. Lovely DR test. ODEs Perfect to handle - load, clip, shoe, teeth etc. Exc in traffic. Not spooky. Great hacking out alone or in co. Real family pet so only to go to 5 * kind & knowledgeable family as very sad sale as Daughter outgrown. Can go with bridle & rugs but Mark Todd close contact Charisma saddle & Anky dressage sold separately

01953 4598 48 emmavictoria1@hotmail.co.uk



Rising 6yo show - quality cob mare

Height: 15hh Age: 6vo Price: £2.999

Description: Blagdon cob mare - ride & drive, showing or dressage prospect. NELLY is a very sweet-natured, quiet and easy-going horse. She is perfect to handle, and good to catch, groom, bath, clip, load and travel. Nelly has three lovely, established paces. Nelly has also been broken to drive, making her a super-versatile cob. She is as good as gold to hack out, whether alone or in company. She would excel in the show-ring or dressage arena. 07446006510 or 07803081070 lauraparkesdrewery@gmail.com

Flash Harry reg part bred

Height: 15hh approx. Age: 3 year old Price: £1,500

Description: Handsome bay. Sire Wrays Panache (Anglo Arab AHS Premium sports stallion) Dam Conn x TB. Harry is good to catch and with the farrier vaccinated and wormed. He is a much loved friendly little horse who we hred ourselves. Harry has 3 fantastic paces with real presence and would excel in any sphere, showing or sporting. 07707638785 sharon-williamson@hotmail.com

Lovely All-rounder

Height: 15hh Age: 7yo Price: £2,000 **Description:** Extremely genuine little horse. Works well in the school & very honest over a fence. Safe,



sensible hack alone or in co. Harvey would make a lovely mother/daughter share or be a great allrounder for someone looking to do PC/RC events. Easy to do in every way, no vices. Sold with a bridle & lots of rugs. 07557 677 163 elbrinkworth@gmail.com

Quality Coloured Cob Sensible & Quiet

Height: 15hh Age: 4yo Price: £2,800 Location: Glos **Description:** Super smart mare, good to hack out alone & in co. Very easy to do on the ground, regularly ridden



and handled by children, 100% in all ways, will make ideal RC/family allrounder, same home from a foal brothers & sisters can be seen.

07890 637 325 cindyfruin@aol.com





Description: PRE Graded Black Mare. Macarena has bred two stunning foals and then been very lightly backed. Due to sad circumstances she is looking for new home. Not suitable for a Novice Rider 07932 421253

yeguada esperanza@yahoo.com



Hunting & Pony Club

Price: £5,500

Description: Registered Connemara Mare is looking for a someone special to love her, and have fun competing and hunting. Cailin is a real all rounder, with bags of potential. She has done all Pony Club activities, including Pony Club Camp, and has hunted a full Season. She has been well schooled on the flat and goes in a nice outline, with three good paces and is happily jumping 90cm. 07557125237

amandafbernard@gmail.com

Heavy Weight Show Cob

Heiaht: 15.1hh Price: £4,500 Description: 5yo gelding. Gus is a gent He is very willing to please and has a



positive outlook. Good action, a good jump, very well balanced. Suit an amateur to produce for working cob. Home bred

01580 715 001 whiteashfarm.ich@gmail.com

Brilliant Allrounder

Price: £3 500 **Description:** A horse with a lovely tempera-



ment, easy to do in all ways. She has competed in all pony and riding club disciplines and is currently competing between 90cm - 1m. She hacks perfectly alone and in company. Good to catch, shoe, box, clip etc.

07528182304 charlottelouisewhite@msn.com

Talented Jumping Pony Seeks Competitive Jockey

Height: 13.1hh Age: 10 years Price: £3,500 Location: Maidstone, Kent **Description:** Bay gelding. This super pony is crying out to affiliate and jump BS. Pony Clubbed to date, won countless prizes SJ & XC. Jumps everything, fillers, ditches, water, hedges etc. Happy to jump 1m 30cm. Good to handle, catch, box, shoe clip, traffic. Hacks out alone or in company. Never lame, sick or sorry. Very sadly outgrown after 3 years.

07810 546 757 bryan.ransom@tiscali.co.uk

Freckleton Marilyn Monroe

Height: 15.2hh Age: 6yo Price: £7,800 Description: A truly



stunning mare with the most amazing kind temperament. She has wonderful elastic paces, balanced and rhythmical with a super hind leg. Pot top dressage horse for professional or amateur rider.

01691 622 897 johnandgailbiggs@uwclub.net

Stunning little coloured gelding

Height: 15.1hh Age: 7yr old Price: £7,500



small combined training, unaffiliated SJ and a RC ODE. **07740414406** zenaroberts**76@gmail.com**



5vo Connemara Gelding

Height: 14.2hh Age: 5yo Price: £3,500 **Description:** Fully registered Connemara gelding, snaffle mouth, will be ideal child's pony, hacks first or last, good to shoe, bath, plait etc. Very sweet nature, fit & ready to go, would benefit from extra schooling. New baby forces very sad sale. 5* home a must.

07515 948 862 richthomas89@live.co.uk

The Real One In A Million

Height: 15hh Age: 9yo Price: £5 000 0N0 Description: 9yo gelding. Absolute all rounder & gentleman, Competed



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cardillodaniela@hotmail.com

Connemara, Irish

Height: 15.2hh Age: 5 year old Price: £3.750 Location: Cambs Description: Irish dapple grey Hunted bold careful



Forward going responsive guiet easy non spooky Done dressage Xc jumping clears BN now scopey jump will make eventer/sj BS/BE. Hacks alone.

07470122791 stingraytail@yahoo.com



Welsh gelding

Height: 13.2hh Age: 9 Yr old Price: £5.995 **Description:** Genuine show/working PCP (BDS). Competes on area teams, extremely brave and bold not a noivce ride hunted 3 seasons never fazed by anything. Competed ODE, SJ, HT schooled over BE novice fences. Loads travels will stand all day. Easy to handle, shoe, clip etc. Lovely stable manners, hacks alone or in company, Vaccinated and microchinned. Sad sale of a much loved pony. 01388745632

14h 2ins & Under

Carless Dazzle Welsh Section C Filly

Age: 2 year old Price: £1.250

Description: REDUCED - Bargain - Dazzle is fully passported Welsh Section C chestnut filly with stockings. Stunning movement with straight extravagant paces. Lovely temperament and has travelled extensively. Walked frequently in traffic. Good with other horses. Easy to catch and farrier and wormed to date. Championship wins in hand and qualified for Hickstead Sunshine Tour 2015 and ESUK. 07501326067 djjackman1966@gmail.com



Fantastic event/WHP

Height: 143 cms Age: 6 yr. old Price: £10,000 Description: bay gelding by Roseberry Special Occasion. A seriously smart eye catching pony with a great competition attitude, he is currently eventing at BE90 level with great success, with definite scope to go further. He is snaffle mouthed in all three phases. Rocky has also been shown as a SHP/WHP winning many classes up to county level with a small 11 yr. old girl. Looking for a competitive child/small adult to take this superstar pony to the top! 07971531820 nick@mallards-reach.co.uk



Stunning Dark Bay Mare

Height: 14.2hh Age: 7 year old Price: £2,300 Description: Angel is a stunning 7 year old dark bay mare 14.2hh registered British Riding Pony. Professionally schooled last Autumn by Aylemore Classical dressage. This year I have taken her to local shows, an Adult camp (where she did her first XC jumping and loved it, wasn't fazed by anything, jumping ditches, steps, water etc) dressage. She is up to date with worming, vaccinations, teeth and her back was checked last year

07989557617 karenwarren128@vahoo.co.uk



Teenagers Dream Pony

Height: 14.2hh Age: 8yo Price: £3,250 **Description:** Bob is an awesome really sweet dannle grey fantastic allrounder Connie X NE gelding. Done all PC activities incl. camp & been to lots of SJ comps, NSEA, BE90 tracks & Hunter trials with lots of placings. Loves XC & would make a fab hunting pony. Very sweet & loves attention, will stand happily at shows & can live in or out. Not a novice ride as he can be very forward & loves his job. Ideally suit a teenager or small adult wanting to go out & have fun. Hacks alone & in co. easy to load & travels. well, great with farrier, teeth etc. Very sadly outgrown. Will consider instalment payments or LWVTB for right home.

07734 921 511 suze126@hotmail.com



Registered Highland Pony

Height: 14.1hh Age: 6yo Price: £3,250

Description: Adorable Highland Pony for sale with excellent bloodlines. Currently mother/daughter share, this honest pony would suit any family. Will help to build confidence & would also suit older/ disabled rider as completely trustworthy. Loves his work - has done BD, showing, drill rides, fancy dress & started jumping. He hacks out alone, or is happy to keep the bigger horses company. 07739 826 316 zo_uk@btinternet.com

Dogs

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Super Fun & **Straightforward** Little Lady

Height: 14.1hh Age: 6yo Price: £2.750 0N0 Description: Dark bay mare.

Easy & uncomplicated ride but athletic & willing - would

excel in any sphere. Hacks alone or in co., travels well in box or trailer. With a confident young rider could go far. 07803 417 711 charlottem2202@gmail.com

Super Jumping/ Allrounder

Height: 14.1 hands Age: 12 years

Price: £4,250

Description: Purebred New Forest, Black, Gelding. Rufus absolutely loves jumping, and is fast against the clock. Loves to compete, ready for a confident, capable rider to go to the top with him. 07941 942995 claire.willoughby@gmail.com

Lurchers

Price: POA

Location: Devon

Description: Lurchers 3 bitch puppies, rough/

broken coat. 01364631493

Beautiful All Rounder

Height: 14.1hh Price: £750 **Description:** Dixie Chick is a dark bay Welsh X mare. She is my daughters first

horse and has owned her for 4.5 years and loved every minute of it. Dixie is mainly used for hacking out. Sad sale due to Uni.

07896 202 161 schoeyfish@msn.com

Hunter **Pony Club** Allrounder

Price: £4800 Description: A real all-rounder, but what he loves most is hunting. For a forward going pony he is immaculate on the hunting field. Excellent at gate opening, never strong or silly, good with the hounds. He has been out cubbing with the Ledbury and the North Hereford, and is fit and ready to go. Chester is good to catch and shoe, will happily box on a lorry but can be a bit slow to go on a trailer alone. Teeth, shoes and vacs up to date 07770 455759 andreacowantaylor@yahoo.com

Horses For Sale

Smart Blue and White Gelding

Height: 16hh Age: 5vrs **Price:** £3950 Location: Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

Description: ID x TB Good confirmation, straight mover, good paces, working well on the flat, showing ability jumping and lovley attitude. Hacks alone and in company, a gentleman in all respects. 07771 632184

Serious jumper / eventer

Height: 14.2hh Age: 6yo Price: £4,250 OIRO **Description:** Cassie superb jumping

bloodlines via the prolific Grade A

performance stallion Glenayre Mystical Bobby. This mare has everything you want in a jumping pony. Want to win? You need this pony! 07889 827 847 maccer1982@btinternet.com

SUPERSTAR PONY

Height: 13.2hh Age: 11yo Price: £2,400 Description: Irish bred Piebald Cob gelding. Sad sale



moving away to university next year. Leo has done all pony club activities, including two camps & show jumping team.

07530 981 332 rosieskmiles@gmail.com



Fantastic Hunting Pony

Price: £5.500

Description: Amazing Hunting Pony will jump everything. Hunted twice a week last season and hunted in Ireland S.Lun to fox level Qualf & placed Scope/BlueChip/POYS PC Teams. BS 222pts Forward going not strona.

07921162211 thelockes@vahoo.co.uk

Fabulous hunting pony

Height: 14.1hh Age: 10yrs Price: £4,650

Description: Grey mare. She is a seasoned hunting pony, has also whipped in and paraded hounds at county show. Knows her job, snaffle mouth, 100% all ways,

SUPER HUNTING Height: 14.2hh

Age: 14yo Price: £4.950

Location: Leicestershire, Market Harborough **Description:** Fantastic hunter, much admired and will safely cross any country. Well schooled, has done PC Areas ODE/SJ/DR, Camp/TC/HT. Sound, fit and Autumn Hunting. Good in all ways, very sadly outgrown. Refs available 01162792042 / 07790077761



Choice of four quality eventers/ showjumpers

Height: 16hh to 17hh Age: 4, 5, 6 & 7 years Price: From £5.500

Location: Devon Near M5

Description: All with winnings to date. Great across country, straight movers. Sound/ genuine/easy rides with good temperaments.

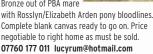
Ann Verden Jones - 01805804443 Mathew Hall - 07721506455



British Riding Pony

Height: 14.2hh Age: 5yo Price: £1,250 Negotiable Description: 5yo 14.2hh mare reg. NPS







Empire LG

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6yrs Price: £10,000 clinically good Location: Cheshire

Description: Bright bay gelding, Ampere/Ferro.

A lovely stamp of horse with a beautiful, uphill & elegant profile who is light and athletic to ride. He is elastic in his way of going, and lends himself easily to the lateral work and is light and easy in his transitions. He is a horse who could easily train to a high level in a short time due to his willingness and good brain

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Lindsay Miller

Height: 15hh Age: 9 year old Location: Horndon on the Hill Description: Lily is a LHC, PBA

mare. Currently competing Novice Afilliated gaining scores to 70%+. Qualified BD summer Regionals Prelim Petplan and Novice U25's Nationals prelim and novice. Lily has also competed at affiliated showing with success, in both PBA and ISRT classes. Pops a jump at home with ease. Has taken part in BYRDS training. 5* home required. Quality tack&rugs avail. 07711217788 Imiller2010@hotmail.co.uk

Dutch warm blood gelding

Height: 16.1hh Age: 7 year old **Price:** £1500 Location: West Sussex 07939 163712



Friesian mare

Height: 16.1hh Age:

4 year old Price: £950 Location:

West Sussex

Description: Backed and going

07939 163712

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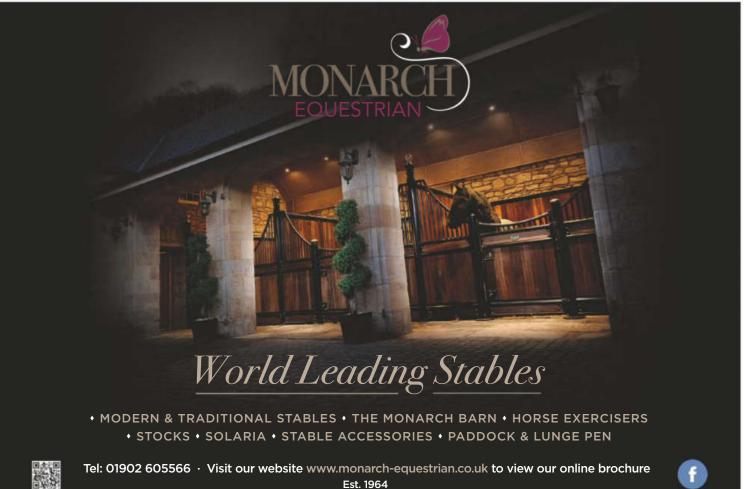
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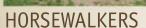




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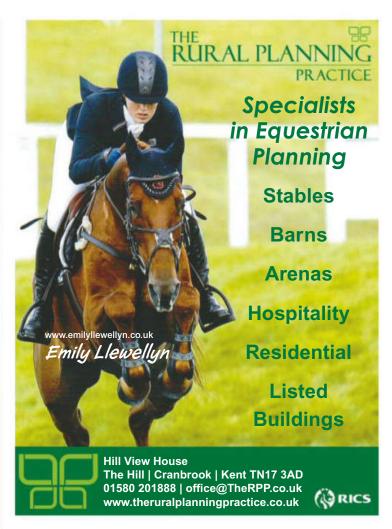
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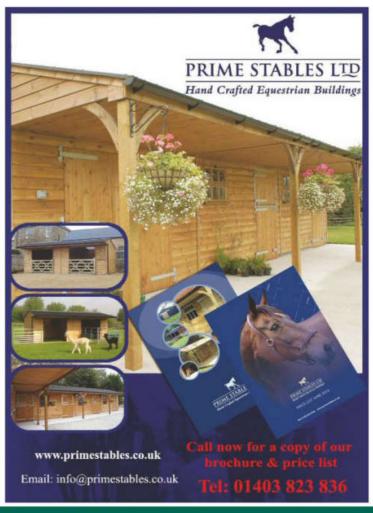
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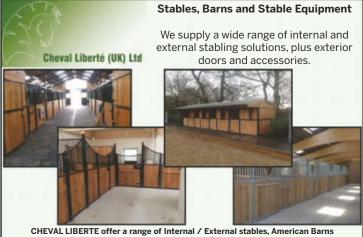
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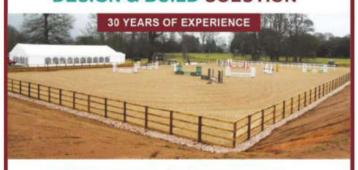
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The horse that made me

Gareth Hughes on the 'crazy' Classic Sandman, whom he initially refused to ride but who then gave him an early taste of top-level dressage

EBECCA, my wife, bought "Flash" as a three-year-old in Holland and we met when he was five.

He wasn't the easiest of horses and I wouldn't sit on him because I thought he was a bit crazy, with his odd yellow eyes. He always behaved for Rebecca but if he didn't like you, he'd do everything to get you off.

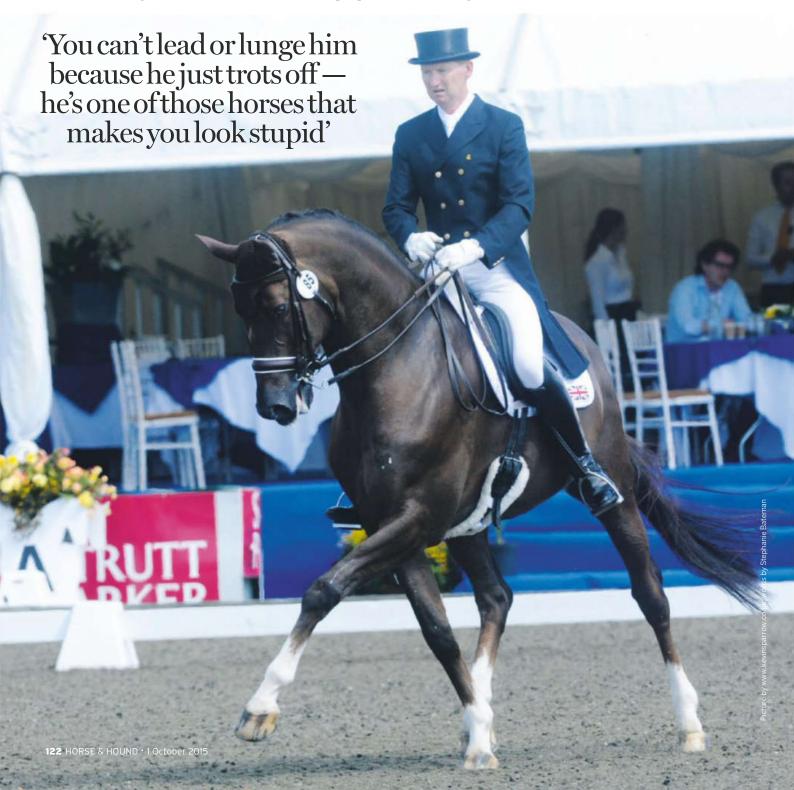
I was living up in Cheshire at the time and Rebecca came up to stay for a long weekend and brought Flash with her. I actually rode him for the first time, and he never went home. That year, he went on to win the novice championship at the nationals.

Rebecca found him a bit big, so I took over the ride and he was very successful through the grades, winning a championship at every level.

He was the first horse to give me an international small tour title, a grand prix win and an international grand prix win, and he helped put me on a team long list. He is a bit of a character. You cannot lead or lunge him because he just trots off — he's one of those horses that makes you look stupid. He's the only horse that we have had to sedate to trot up for the vet, and you can't even catch him in the stable if he decides that he doesn't want to be caught.

Unfortunately, he was very injury-prone, and is now happily retired in the field at the age of 16. **H&H**

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